

LETTERS

O F

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TICAL INSTITUTES.

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LETTER XXV.

To Mademoiselle von S * * *, at
Breslaw.

MADAM,

Berlin, Jan. 1, 1746.

IT is with inexpressible pleasure that I perceive you approve of my way of thinking: for it was a sense of your amiable disposition, and many excellent endowments, which some years since, kindled that pure and ardent passion in my heart, of which I then gave you tokens. Our fate, by a separation that will most likely be eternal, has determin'd, that this passion shall no longer glow with its original fervor. For you it has decreed a worthy consort,

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and me it has bound to the Prussian court. Absence has untied that band which made us one.

That wonderful passion of love, which can burn when the object is at a vast distance, is only to be found in romance. The torch of Venus goes out on a long journey : but a sense of tender respect, and a sincere friendship, we can carry with us to the grave. It is with these sentiments, Madam, that I address you, and it is with these that I presume to wish that you would regard me. Our mutual peace requires that we should not soon, again see each other ; and I wish nothing more, than that your whole happiness may center in your husband : but it would afford me the highest satisfaction, again to strengthen the band of our friendship by the correspondence you propose ; and to give you the first proof of my zeal and my obedience, I here send the description you desire, of the public rejoicings on account of the peace, and of the kings return to Berlin.

As

As soon as the day was known, on which his majesty was to make his public entrance into this city, every one set about the necessary preparations for his reception. All the inhabitants made the proper dispositions for illuminating their houses; and many zealous citizens determin'd to go forth to meet their sovereign, and to conduct him to his capital, crown'd with immortal laurels, gain'd in the combats, "For glory
" and for his country *."

The first dawn of the day was proclaim'd by a general peal of all the bells in the city. Towards noon, the several companies of militia assembled before the houses of their captains, from whence they march'd to their appointed stations, which extended from the city gate, quite up to the entrance of the palace. All these citizens were gaily dress'd, and had uniform hats and arms; their officers regimentals were blue, and they march'd with drums beating and colors

* The kings motto.

flying. Close to the palace was a volunteer company of young merchants, who had chose for their captain, the bookseller and merchant, Fromeri: their colors were white, on which was painted a flaming heart, with this motto,

“ Sic ardet pro rege.”

These ranks of armed citizens afforded the most agreeable sight imaginable.

His royal highness prince Henry set off early in the morning, to meet the king where he was to dine; and there he had the pleasure to embrace this hero and worthy brother; this monarch so dear to his people; and to find him in perfect health, and full flow of spirits. They did not set long at table, for about three in the afternoon, his majesty got into his carriage, and came gently on towards Berlin. In the meantime the ladies and principal inhabitants repaired to those houses by which the king was to pass: and the streets were filled with the common people. Never in my life have I seen so vast a concourse. All the
win-

windows, from the ground to the roof, were throngd; nay, the very coverings of the roofs were taken off, and the tops of the houses filld with spectators; in the streets the people were wedgd together.

When the king was yet six miles from Berlin, he was met by a number of his faithful subjects, who were impatient for the pleasure of beholding their monarch. A little further he saw the different companys of horsemen who were come out to meet him, and to attend him to his palace. His majesty receivd this instance of their zeal, with marks of great pleasure and goodness. The king sat in an open phaeton, and was accompanyd by his two brothers, the prince of Prussia and prince Henry. The quantity of spectators that surrounded the carriage was so great, that the horses could advance only step by step, and the solemnity of their pace added to the pleasure and dignity of this triumphant entry.

The procession was in the following order. First, came the roial postmaster, followed by a hundred postillions, all dresd in blue, and blowing their horns, which were ornamented with orange colord ribons, incessantly in full chorus. Next came all the butchers of the city and its environs ; these were formd into a squadron, and were dresd in a brown uniform, with laced hats and blue cockades : they were well mounted, and fat well upon their horses. Then came the great master of the forests, at the head of all the officers of the hunt, and of the hunters of the country round about Berlin, all dresd in green : these were followed by a detachment of the regiment of roial hunters. Then came a grand squadron of volunteers, composed of the principal citizens of Berlin, dresd in the kings blue uniform, and all nobly mounted : these immediately surrouned his majestys carriage. Many pages of the king and the princes followd on horseback ; and after them

them came a detachment of the guards. An inconceivable quantity of coaches, filld with nobility and gentry, who came to attend on his majesty, closed the procession.

As soon as the king enterd the ranks of the militia, the citizens presented their arms, the officers saluted his majesty with their esponsions and their colors, the drums beat the march, and the whole people cryd out, "Long live the king; long live Frederic the Great." Women and young maidens strewd flowers before him, and every moment were seen garlands of flowers, thrown from the windows and the tops of the houses, by the ladys and citizens, on the king's carriage. Never have I seen so pleasing, and so affecting a sight. The pomp and splendor of a court, where dread majesty presides, oft-times dazzles and confounds: but here all was serene and harmonious; nothing was to be seen but the joyful admiration, the

zeal and the love of faithful and affectionate subjects. Nature alone workd, and surely in such a manner as did honor to humanity. These reflections so strongly affected my mind, that I could not refrain from tears; but they were the tears of joy, and accompanyd with a homefelt pleasure.

The kings behaviour, in the midst of this superb and splendid popularity, which was so natural to raise lofty and fastidious thoughts in the mind of a monarch, was such as greatly increasd the lively emotions of my heart. Complacency; goodness; a sense of real intrinsic merit; and a tender concern for his people, were strongly markd in his countenance. He saluted the spectators on the right and on the left, and said to those who eagerly crowded to see him, " Dont press each other, my children: take care of yourselves: dont let the horses trample upon you." On one he smiled graciously;

to

to another he spoke with a noble mien: with a word, with a look, he made his people happy.

I had placed my prince in the balcony of the palace, and as soon as I saw the kings carriage draw nigh, I conducted his highness to the entrance of the court: but had the utmost difficulty in getting down, for the great staircase was so crowded, that I thought more than once, we must have stuck by the way. As the king descended from his carriage, he tenderly embraced his brother, and made us together a very friendly compliment; and we had the pleasure to attend his majesty to his chamber. The citizens then gave three salutes, and drew up, with drums beating, and colors flying, under the windows of the palace.

It should seem as if, in the highest enjoyments of human life, there were still some mixture of bitterness: for on this day of supreme festivity, the king could not prevent anxiety and grief from steal-

ing in upon him. His majesty was scarce seated when news was brought, that his old preceptor, M. Duhan von Jandun, lay at the point of death. As the king had an uncommon regard for this truly venerable person, founded on a long familiarity, and a sense of real obligation, the news affected him greatly; and his majesty expressed a strong desire to see him, and to give him the greatest comfort which it was possible, for a man who was on the threshold of life, to receive; and which the sight of his royal pupil, a prudent conqueror, and a philosophic hero, who brought back peace to his country, and was at that moment in the midst of a glorious triumph, must necessarily afford.

By six in the evening the whole city was illuminated. The king went into his coach, attended by the prince of Prussia, and prince Henry: prince Ferdinand followed him. His majesty ordered the pages to conduct him to M. Duhans, who

who livd in a sort of court, the houses of which were so crowded with lamps, that they were obligd to open the windows of the chambers where the sick lay, to prevent their being suffocated by the heat. It was a noble sight, to see a dying man surrounded by princes, and by a triumphant monarch, who in the midst of the incessant clamor of exultation, sought only to alleviate the sick mans pangs; participating of his distress; and reflecting on the vanity of all human fame and grandeur. When his majesty had taken a tender adieu of M. Duhan, who livd but till the next day, he went again into his coach, and completed the tour of the city.

I shall not attempt a particular description of these magnificent illuminations, but here send you the printed account, by which you will see that there were many ingenious designs, and many significant inscriptions; in which the subtilty of modern wit was joind to the elegance and

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brevity

brevity of the ancient expression : and you will find that there was a plentiful mixture of good and bad in all these ; as indeed how should it be otherwise, when the quantity was so great, and every one expressed himself after his own manner. What do you say, for example, to that honest citizen, who having doubtless the late consternation fresh in his memory, painted general Green, and a number of Austrian hussars, riding upon crabs, with the city of Berlin in the back ground, and under it this inscription ; “ The march
“ of general Green to Berlin ? ” Or of another, who in a large painting, represented a number of coaches, some with pairs, and some with sets of horses ; with wagons, carts, cars, and every other kind of carriage, driving furiously from the capital ; and in the midst of them a great hare in full flight, with this motto ; “ For
“ companys sake. ” For the rest, Madam, you will easily imagin how glorious a sight one of the largest citys of Europe must

must make, when every part of it blazed with illuminations : and where the streets run in straight lines, and are filld with palaces and other beautiful buildings ; where the public place is of a vast extent, and regularly built ; and where there are a great number of stately bridges and public walks. The infinit variety of those different decorations which every house afforded, filld the eye with inexpressible delight.

The king and the court did not return to the palace before ten in the evening : about the same time I went to a house, where I knew several of my friends were invited. As I enterd the hall, I met the lady of the house, who instead of calling me by my name, cryd out, O ! M. von Vivat, I rejoyce to see you. So strong an impression had the Vivat Fredericus Magnus, which was heard in every house, made on the imagination ; and so ready the tongue was to pronounce it. The whole night was one continued scene of diversions ;

diversions; which the citizens enjoyed, each one according to his own fancy: and the repeated discharges of the musquetry were heard till broad day.

Three days after, the king gave a noble entertainment in the opera house, as the Feast of Peace. There was a grand masquerade ball, to which every one was invited: the court was seated at six large tables: and behind the scenes, and in the different apartments of the theatre, a cold collation, with a desert, and plenty of wine and warm water, were provided for the citizens. This spacious and beautiful building was illumined on the inside, every where with wax candles, and on the outside with lamps. Directly fronting the theatre, was erected a building, which represented the temple of Janus; the gates of which were fastened by a soldier in a Roman habit: and behind this temple there was exhibited a magnificent firework.

The

The ball lasted till clear day, and the masques found the kings wine so good, that next day about noon, as I pass'd the opera house, I saw two nymphs come out, dress'd in the habits of shepherdesses; who it seems, after sacrificing liberally to Bacchus, had deliver'd themselves up to Morpheus: but waking, and finding the doors fast, made a terrible outcry. The door-keeper presently came to their release, but rather unpolitely, obliged these gentle shepherdesses to walk into the street at noon day: where they were immediately surrounded by a number of boys and rabble, who pursued them with their jeers, quite to the next guard-house, where they took refuge. So it is, Madam, that the most superb festivals are commonly attended with some ridiculous circumstance. I hope this which I have related will give you some pleasure, as the sight of it afforded me high entertainment.

Thus, Madam, I have described, in as concise a manner as I am able, the most

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remarkable incidents, in this day of glorious festivity, for the inhabitants of Prussia. The brightest day perhaps that the king has in his life ever yet seen; and the most important to all those whose hearts are sincerely devoted to him. Would you had been at Berlin on this day! for I am certain you would have mingled your tears of joy with mine, and that would have rendered my happiness complete, for no man in the world is more sincerely than I am,

Madam, your, &c.



L E T T E R XXVI.

To M. von Steven at Brunswick

Berlin, March 20, 1746.

NO, my dear brother, I cannot send a translation of the verses I wrote, on the marriage of colonel W——, and the
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young

young lady K——, maid of honor to her majesty the queen mother. It is a piece of meer drollery that is founded on a private history, and on the name of the bridegroom, which signifies the same in German, as “quite ready.” Now this equivoque cannot be well expressd in French, and consequently the poem would lose a principal part of its merit.

After a necessary introduction, I advance a burlesque principle, which is; that matrimony being the grand object of every ladys pursuit, a desire to please is as important to them, as valour to a hero; sagacity to a statesman; learning to a philosopher, &c. from whence I infer, that the solicitude which a young lady shows, in making a splendid and elegant appearance, is by no means to be calld vanity; nor are the little arts of allurements, the stolen glance, or the look of attention and respect, which are sometimes given, and sometimes refused; and all that wileful behaviour, which so well resembles a passion,

sion,

sion, and by which the fair ones so well know how to make a man believe, that they are charmd with his company; to be call'd love. And by the same principle I defend the sex against the charge of inconstancy, and prove, that as a lady is to make her fortune by love, it is but just that she declare for the best; and consequently, that a first passion may be vacated by a second; or if circumstances require it, by a hundred in succession, provided that the last be still more eligible than any that went before. You see that there can be no want of irony in this proposition, for the subject affords it in abundance. His roial highness the prince of Prussia, gave me the first hint, and after it was finish'd shew'd it to the king at Potsdam: they say his majesty laugh'd when he read it, and was pleas'd to honor it with his approbation. Superior geniuses sometimes take pleasure in encouraging the inferior, by the smiles of applause.

This little performance was attended
with

with a drole circumstance, of which I cannot forbear to acquaint you. As I was not willing to be known for the author, I put, instead of my name, two initial letters, which I shall not name here; for we may relate a miracle without naming the saint; and beside, I will not deprive you of the pleasure of guessing. Now we have in Berlin, a very honest and brave man, but one whose weak intellects afford a continual subject of ridicule to the wicked wits: unluckily his name begins with those two very letters which I had placed in the room of mine. Our courtiers immediately took the hint, and were determin'd to divert themselves at his expence; and they made him believe in good earnest, that he was suspected to be the author, and that the affair would have very serious consequences. The poor man ran immediately, in great anxiety, to M. von Borke, minister for foreign affairs, protesting very solemnly, that he had not had the least hand in it; nay, offerd to take an oath, and to confirm

firm it on his death-bed, that it had never enterd his mind, to compose a poem of that sort. The minister told him "that he believd him on his word, and that all Berlin must be convincd, that he was not the man that was capable of writing such verses as those." The good man went away, quite appeasd, and highly satisfyd. This little occurrence entertained the court and the city for some days.

I scarce dare send my dear St. —, a copy of this poem, for I dread her shrewd critic. You have made at your court, on account of some great matches, masterpieces of this kind; and it is with poetry as with statuary, moderate performances are insufferable in the eyes of a great master. We can do without either of these, and yet the least performance demands our approbation, tho it be the most excellent only, that is tolerable. However, I cannot refuse to send this trifle, tho I am sensible of the danger I run of incurring your disapprobation.

I am, sir, your, &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XXVII.

To M. von M * * * at Hanover.

Potsdam, May 20, 1746.

AT length, my dear friend, after six years attendance, I have obtained that station which I have so long desired ; which was to be so situated, as to have free access to the kings person. But do not imagin that vanity excited this wish, or a blind ambition to approach a throne, where, in the midst of grace and favor, a thunder storm may arise. No, sir, it was humility, not pride, that was the motive. For as I am destined to the service of the state, I was desirous of learning the principles of sound politics, at the feet of the greatest of masters, and the wisest of monarchs. My wishes are complete. I see and hear Frederic. He is my Apollo. But it is
not

not at Potsdam as at Delphos. This oracle is surrounded by no ensigns of terror. Here no thunder rocks the ground; no priestess bellows forth, with frantic emotions, ambiguous or unmeaning sentences. Here all is serene and placid. When I receive the kings commands to attend him, I fly on the wings of desire; a secret joy fills my soul: and I never leave him, without fresh pleasure and instruction.

See, my dear friend, how I have obtained this good fortune. Since peace has been restored to the states of Brandenburg, by the treaty of Dresden, the king has resided at Potsdam, where he nourishes his people in the lap of peace, and fills the hours of vacation from the great business of state, with studys. His majestys tender concern for his most worthy brothers, has drawn the princes Henry, and Ferdinand to the same place. The latter receivd, not long since, an order to leave Berlin, and fix his court at Potsdam, where apartments in the palace were made ready for his

his reception. The prince obeyd with pleasure. He gave all his servants who were to remain at Berlin pensions; and the day before his departure, entertaind the whole court with a noble feast, which concluded with a ball.

The next day we went to Potsdam; and I must confess to you, that I had no reason to be pleasd, with the first reception the king gave me; nor can I, to this hour, imagin the cause of it; for I do not know of any fault that I had committed to merit his displeasure. A few days after, however, his majesty was graciously pleasd, by a private conference, to rid me of that affliction, with which my heart was full: and from that day has not ceasd to bestow on me, particular marks of regard and munificence. His majesty is frequently pleasd to send for me to read to him, or to accompany him in his concert. And I have the honor, almost every night, to sup with the king, and a small select company, at a kind of private table: great as
 7 this

this honor is, it affects me not so sensibly, as the pleasure in partaking of the conversation of his majesty, and the other geniuses, of the first rank, who compose this table. For I much doubt if all Europe can produce, a more wise, learned, witty, and polite company, than is there to be found.

It seems as if his majesty took pleasure in laying aside the monarch, that he may become the most amiable of men: and on our part, he has the pleasure to see, that we lay aside that vail which the courtier constantly wears, to defend him against the blaze of majesty. On one hand is seen, a king, who appears under the character of a worthy friend; and on the other, subjects who approach their sovereign, without the least dread of his power. Our hearts are mutually, and perfectly open, and our spirits know no bounds. When the concert is over, we sit down to supper; the conversation is gay, and the king is frequently surprised, to hear the clock strike,

two hours after midnight, when he thought he had scarce been an hour at table*.

In this manner, under the shadow of a throne, so to speak, our days pass away, peacefully and joyfully. O! might our happiness be free from that vicissitude, which attends all human enjoyments! O! that the Divine Providence may constantly preserve the precious health of our sovereign!

* Nothing shows true greatness in a prince more, than knowing how to descend to familiarity, without prejudice to his dignity. Familiarity, they say, breeds contempt; and so it may, among little men and little kings; but where there is true genius and merit, the reverse will ever be the consequence: the former of these resemble one of those false stones, which glitters at a distance, but when nearly examined, is presently discovered and despised; the latter, a brilliant of the first water, which the more it is examined, the more it is admired.



L E T T E R XXVIII.

To M. von M * * * at Hanover.

Potsdam, Sept. 15, 1747.

YOUR rebuke, my worthy friend, touches me most sensibly, and the more, as it has the appearance of being just. That I have not wrote to you for these fifteen months past, is most true. But do not infer from thence, that vanity has stifled the voice of friendship; or that I am capable of forgetting, at the foot of a throne, those with whom I have been so intimately, and so sincerely connected : and yet this is the purport of your letter, or at least, so it appears to me. But permit me, sir, to show the injustice of this inference, and to explain the true cause of my long silence.

The more the king has loaded me with his favor and confidence, the more I have thought myself obliged to retrench my
other

other connections, and that correspondence which I had in different countrys. I will, like Cæsars wife, be free even from the suspicion of guilt. The king himself superintends the grand machine of politics; and consequently the palace of Potsdam, is the common center, in which all the lines of government meet. I have shut my eyes against all other objects, and have thought of nothing, but how I might please my sovereign, and learn from him the great principles of government, without attending to particular subjects. I have, beside, my pen continually in hand, in instructing the prince, and by these means I have debard myself of that very sensible pleasure, which I find in writing to a friend, whom I love and esteem like yourself. Beside all this, the king has been pleasd, to make me one, in his partys of pleasure, and to take me with him on all his journeys; in the midst therefore, of so many different avocations, you will easily

conceive, that it was scarce possible for me to attend to any other connection.

We have passd part of the two last summers, sometimes at Sansouci, sometimes at Charlottenburg, sometimes at Oranienburg, and sometimes at Rheinsburg *. The queens, the princesses, the princes, and the greatest part of those ladys and gentlemen, who belong to the court, have been of these partys. We have been every where lodgd in noble apartments, and have had the most agreeable entertainments: delightful walks, balls, illuminations, fireworks, a roial table, and liquor fit for the gods. The king has enjoyd a continued flow of spirits, and we have constantly regarded him, as the author and supporter of all our joy. At Rheinsburg, his majesty permitted us to act the tragedy of *Britannicus*; in which I playd the part of Nero: almost all the other performers were princes.

* For a description of Sansouci, Oranienburg, Rheinsburg and Potsdam, see ls. 40 and 42.

Her royal highness the princess Amelia, performd the part of Agrippina, with amazing force and propriety.

I had almost forgot to tell you, that our diversions were stopd for some time, the last summer, by an unlucky accident, of which no doubt you have heard. The king had invited the queens to pass some weeks at Charlottenburg, and in consequence the whole court, which consisted of two hundred and eighty persons, including domestics, were lodgd in the palace. We had been there three days, and every day was distinguishd by some remarkable diversion. On the last of the three days, there was a French comedy, and a grand supper. After table, her majesty the reigning queen, went to town, to lie at the palace, that she might return the next day early, to Charlottenburg. We had been the whole day, in a continued flow of joy, and had the honor to attend her majesty, and her ladys, full of mirth and gaiety,

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to their coaches; and then retired, each one quietly to his chamber.

About two in the morning I was waked by the sound of a trumpet, of the guard, whose main corps is near the entrance of the palace. I immediately rose and went to the window: but as I saw that all was still, I returned to bed, supposing it to be the reveille; but had scarce been there two minutes, when prince Ferdinand knockd with violence at my door, crying out, "Get up quickly, the palace is on fire, the queen my mother, and my sister Amely are in danger." I jumped out of bed, and slipping on nothing but my nightgown, ran to the princesses chamber, helped her to dress, and conducted her to a place of safety.

As we went out of the gate of the palace, we saw a scene truly tragicomic; which was, her majesty the queen mother, drawn on a sledge by two soldiers, and attended on one side by M. Pannewitz, the lieutenant

lieutenant of the guard, in his full regimentals, booted and spurd, and his cloak on; and on the other, by baron Polnitz, in his nightgown, slippers, and nightcap; and followd by a number of half clad domestics. As much as I was frightened, I could not, at that moment, forbear a loud laugh, at so drole an attendance. The sight of the most respectable princess in the world, in so distressful a situation brought to my mind, that verse of Racine,

“Moi, fille, femme, seur & mere de vos maitres ?”

But while I was busyd in these reflections, the scene changd in a moment: and turning myself about, I saw a lively representation of the last day. The trumpets sounded the alarm; the fire burst forth at the windows of the palace; every door flew open; and on every side were seen, men and women almost naked, and each one with the looks of a corps just reanimated.

Here you saw a lady of the court, with nothing on but her under petticoat, and barefooted ; and there a court beau in his shirt ; here another in in his flannel waistcoat ; and there a lady with two stockings on one leg, and consequently the other naked. In short, there can be no dress, no figur imagind, more outré and burlesque, than what this scene afforded. Fear was strongly markd on every countenance ; every one were calling out to their servants, who were running about, here and there, in search of their ladys and masters clothes. For my own part, I was in no small perplexity ; the safety, and the deep respect, which I bore those illustrious personages, whom it was my duty to attend, obliged me to make a girdle of my handkerchief, with which I fastend my gown ; and had the mortification to see at the same time, with what solicitude, my servants conveyd every part of my dress, to some place of safety.

After we had brought the queen, the
princesses,

princesses, and the ladys of the court together, in a room at the end of the new wing, where they were in perfect safety; we all ran to the place where the fire was, which was the audience chamber of the queen mother, and which joind to the chamber where her majesty had slept. We found it burning with great violence, and the whole palace appeard to be in danger. I ran from thence to see if it were possible to save the chapel, for it is one of the finest in Europe, and has a roof adorn'd with paintings by the celebrated Terwesten; and had the satisfaction to find it practicable. As I was going from thence, I met the king walking very composedly, on the terrace; who said to me: "Well; it is a misfortune; but if nobody be hurt, no matter; the workmen of Berlin will be the better for it."

From Charlottenburg itself, we could not expect much assistance; but as that town lies between Berlin and Spandau, they soon perceiv'd our distress, and as the

king and the whole roial family seemd to be in danger, the commanders of Berlin, and of the castle of Spandau, sounded the alarm, and every one flew to our aid. The great road that leads from Berlin, to Charlottenburg, was filld with people. His roial highness the margrave Charles, came full speed, and was followd by fire engines, drawn by horses on a gallop. When these helps arrived, the violence of the flames was soon dampd, and by seven in the morning, the fire was quite out; and every one sought his clothes and his breakfast.

There were not in all, more than three or four rooms burnt, and yet the damage was estimated at 25,000 dollars. The king gave orders to M. Knobelsdorf, superintendant of his buildings, to put every thing, as near as possible, into the same state it was before the fire. The court dined that day at Charlottenburg; but in the evening the two queens returned to Berlin, and we to Potsdam. Eight days

days after, however, the court was assembled again, by his roial highness the prince of Prussia, at Oranienburg, where the diversions were as frequent, as they had been at Rheinsburg.

I intended, my worthy friend, to have said something here, of the journeys I have made, in my attendance on the king: and to have given you a sketch of my manner of life for some time past: but that must be at another opportunity; for I am now call'd to attend a party to Sansouci, and have only time to assure you of that affectionate friendship, with which I am,

Your, &c.



L E T T E R XXIX.

To M. von M * * * at Hanover.

Potsdam, October 10, 1747.

I Promisd you, my worthy friend, an account of our excursions, and here it is : I lay aside all introduction. I have had the honor, for these two years past, to attend the king on his journeys to Silesia, to Magdeburg, and to Stettin ; where his majesty not only musterd his troops, but examind into many affairs of civil government.

The journeys which a soveraign prince makes in his dominions, may be attended either with great advantage, or distress, to his subjects. When he travels with a numerous retinue, and has no view but to gratify an idle curiosity, or to display the
empty

empty pageantry of an Eastern monarch: then must the labor of the people, in procuring horses for so large a company; the expence of the magistrates and citizens of every town; the dissipations of the people; the loss of labor; and the presents that are every where to be made; all these must necessarily tend to the distress of the country. But does he travel with a small retinue; graciously receive the petitions of his subjects; inquire into their grievances; into the administration of justice; the state of his revenues, and the condition of his troops; he then turns the poison into wholsom food. His presence resembles that of the sun, which animates and nourishes whatever it beholds. I have been a witness, on these journeys, of that infinit attention and labor, which his majesty has exerted, to procure his subjects these blessings.

It is true, that for a private person, nothing can be more fatiguing, than to travel in the retinue of so active and vigorous a prince,

prince, who, notwithstanding the insufferable heat, passes like lightning; is continually mustering his troops; and stays in no town longer than to make the necessary inquiries: but even these fatigues are attended with many pleasures. You travel with amazing dispatch; for at every three miles, you are provided with fresh post horses. The nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood; the hunters of the circles; the inhabitants of the environs, who come to present their petitions; the peasants who are to provide the horses; all these change at every station: the scenes are continually shifting. Every where you are presented with fruits, refreshments, and frequently a breakfast or slight collation. Every one is solicitous to contribute to your pleasure or convenience. When you enter a town, you find the whole nobility; the presidents and council; the magistrates, the officers and principal citizens, all assembled. You make new acquaintance, or you renew the old. The provincials

provincials are ever superabundantly complaisant and attentive, to those who compose the kings train. You find every where, balls and other entertainments; and at the same time become acquainted with the strength and weakness of every province.

I cannot sufficiently express to you, how fine a country Silesia is; as well as the dukedom of Magdeburg, and that part of Pomerania which lies about Stettin. It is difficult to say, to which of these provinces, one would give the preference. They swarm with inhabitants, and each has its peculiar excellence. Silesia is extensive, and full of towns, villages, castles, cloisters; has a great number of manufactures, and is watered by the Oder, and many small rivers. Magdeburg was formerly an archbishoprick: there needs no more be said: you know, sir, the church never fixes its head quarters in a desert: in fact, the soil about Magdeburg, and in the Saalkrause, which makes a part of it, is the richest in all Germany. The Elbe, and the Saalfstrom,

Saalfstrom, run thro this country, and make it convenient for commerce. Stettin has a port on the Baltic sea, and a considerable navigation. The whole nobility of Pomerania, are collected in this town; and the inhabitants are conversible, pleasant, and polite.

On our last journey, his majesty was graciously pleased, to confer on me, the office of superintendant of all his universitys: so you see, that I am blest with five daughters at once*, which are, Hall, Frankfort on the Oder, Königsberg in Prussia, Dussburg, and Lingen. At our return, his majesty was also pleas'd to appoint me director of the hospital of Berlin: and during the absence, or frequent indisposition of baron Sweerts, I have the superintendency of the theatres: beside all this, I am daily engaged in instructing prince Ferdinand. So that you will easily believe, my worthy

* The king of France calls the university of Paris, his daughter.

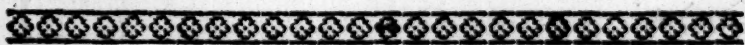
friend,

friend, that I am in no want of employment.

The inspection of the universitys, will oblige me shortly, to make a journey to Hall; and there, it is probable, I shall meet that young lady, with whom, five years since, I would have bound myself in the holy bands of wedlock, and who is yet unmarried. And who knows, whether the superintendant may not be better receivd, than the mere gentleman? And whether I may not find means to renew that ancient acquaintance? For to speak plainly, prudence seems to direct that I should profit by these occurrences; and fix my good fortune on a solid foundation. As time and opportunity will permit, I shall acquaint you with the futur circumstances of this affair.

I have the honor to be, &c.

L E T-



LETTER XXX.

To Lieutenant General Count R * *,
at Potsdam.

Hall, Feb. 14, 1748.

YOUR excellency has given me so many marks of your beneficent friendship, that I should be guilty of the highest disrespect, were I any longer to defer acquainting you, with the most remarkable occurrence of my life. For it were by no means just, that my first protector should be the last to know, that I find myself in the same state with Alcippus.

“ For there is no time for courtship at my
time of life,
“ I say, Yes or No ? and soon get a wife,”
&c.

I shall

I shall not attempt to give your excellency a description of Mademoiselle R——, with whom it is, that I have made so serious a contract. The time between the promise, and the performance of matrimony, is the reign of illusion. Our prejudices, our self-love, and our wishes, all conspire to deceive us: and every man who has any passion for his bride, must necessarily paint her, in flattering colors. But matrimony is very dexterous in divesting these colors of their false gloss. The mask falls off, beauty flies away, and the wife remains behind.

A bride frequently undergoes many remarkable changes. She first appears in the eyes of her fond husband, like one of those beautiful insects they call a Chenille, adorned with bright and pleasing colors: some time after, she turns to a chrysalis, appears stupid or inanimate; but presently changes into a real butterfly. That I might avoid this last inconvenience, I have used all possible precaution; by discovering

ing the real character of Mademoiselle R——, as perfectly as it is possible to discover the character of a lady ; and which has all the appearance of being truly amiable. I have taken care, moreover, to procure at the same time a very respectable fortune ; which, let matters come to the worst, will afford a real consolation. Hitherto, at least, I enjoy a satisfaction that in my life I never knew before : I am sincerely loved by a virtuous woman. For out of matrimony, there is nothing to be found but coquetry.

I had the honor to acquaint the king with my intended marriage, and his majesty has not only vouchsafed to grant his consent, but is pleas'd that I should add to the title of a husband, that of a baron ; of which he has just now sent me the diploma. As my marriage is defer'd till the next Leipzig fair, when I am to take possession in form, of my bride and her fortune, I propose to return in the mean time to Potsdam, and there offer to the
king

king my most dutiful acknowledgments :
and about Easter I shall intreat his ma-
jestys permission to come again to Hall,
to complete my nuptials. I hope for the
honor of meeting with your excellency at
court, and for the very sensible pleasure
of acknowledging in person, that great
obligation and respect, with which I have
the honor to be, &c.



L E T T E R XXXI.

To his Roial Highness Prince Fer-
dinand ; at Potsdam.

Hall, May 12. 1748,

Most gracious Prince,

YOUR roial highness, I thought,
would have lost a preceptor, whom
you honor with your confidence ; and one
who is devoted to your service, still more
by the affections of his heart, than by the
dutys

dutys of his office. Yes, most gracious prince, I thought I must have died at Leipfig. I went there from Hall, to visit the king of Poland, and to see that renownd fair. His Polish majesty; their roial highnesses the electoral prince and princefs; count Bruhl, and the whole court, receivd me in a most gracious and friendly manner. But I enjoyd that happinefs a very short time; for two days after, while I was with this court, I was seizd with a very violent fever: the cause of which I had for some time before carryd about with me; and from which I was deliverd by a prodigious discharge of gall. I have got back to Hall, and am now out of danger, but quite weak, and recover very slowly. As this ftate of body unfits me for matrimony, I have put it off for some time: and I believe it will be yet a month, before I shall be able to wait on your highness, either at Berlin, or at Potsdam.

The letter your grace has been pleas'd to send me, does honor as well to your heart, as your understanding. It has given me so great pleasure, that I ascribe my recovery to it in a great degree, as joy of heart is an universal remedy. The concern your highness expresses at my absence, and the desire to employ the time usefully till my return, give me unspeakable pleasure. You are desirous of exercising yourself in composition, and wish that I would furnish you with proper subjects whereon to practise those rules of rhetoric, which I have deliverd in the course of my lectures. Now as this proposition is highly agreeable to me, I shall use my best endeavours to satisfy your desire; and here offer the following themes, of which your roial highness will make your choice.

1. A work of elocution, must be wrote in conformity to the rules of art; but those rules must not appear in the composition.

2. That

2. That wit which is the produce of labor, is not so good as that we have from nature.

3. As we are to be directed by reason, in our converse with mankind, we ought not to quarrel with any man for his want of wit; provided he do not pretend to have what he has not.

4. Fortunate fools seem to stand in no need of wisdom.

5. Great princes are born to pass their days at court, in the army, and in the cabinet. What natural gifts are necessary, to enable them to succeed, in each of these situations.

6. Philanthropy is the greatest virtue of a prince.

7. The greatest glory of a monarch, consists in making his people happy.

8. A prince can defend his people against the enemy, much better by foresight, than by the sword.

9. What passion is most dishonorable to a prince?

10. The

10. The old proverb; Tell me your company, and I will tell you what you are; holds equally true of the confidence which princes repose in their courtiers.

11. Every virtue is attended by its own reward, and every vice by its own punishment.

12. The improvement of the understanding, and the increase of knowledge, soften our manners, and purify our morals; and consequently contribute to the real happiness of mankind.

Your roial highness will find in these short propositions, the foundation of many observations, that I have had the honor to make to you, in the course of our conversations. And when your grace shall please to exercise yourself in writing on these subjects, you will thereby receive a double advantage: you will accustom yourself to express your thoughts with propriety: and by inquiring into the foundation of these maxims; whether it be by reason, or by example; your highness will

discover a great number of arguments, which will induce you to follow that which is good, and to avoid that which is evil; and these arguments being the result of your own reflections, will make the strongest impression on your mind; as you will be convinced that they are the rightful offspring of truth. For the lectures on morality, which a preceptor delivers, are frequently regarded as a part of his duty; as what he is obliged to preach to his pupil; and make a far weaker impression on his mind, than those which are the consequence of his own inquiry.

I well know, most gracious prince, that the divine providence has given you an understanding very capable of distinguishing the true from the false; and a heart ever ready to follow that which is right. Fully convinced of these dispositions in your highness, you may easily conceive what pleasing hopes I indulge, and how dear you are to my heart. I could enlarge on this topic with great pleasure; but

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but I forbear, lest I should be suspected of flattery, which of all men living would least become me. Your roial highness is, by your birth, highly respectable; but that love which I bear you, proceeds from your exalted virtue and many excellent endowments. Go on therefore, most gracious prince, to increase and perpetuate the earnest desire of my heart; and still continue to honor me with that confidence and affection, which, by the profoundest esteem, and devotion, I shall, to my latest breath, endeavour to deserve.



L E T T E R XXXII.

To my Sister von Brömbfen; at
Lübeck.

Potsdam, July 1, 1748.

SO at last, my dear sister, I am, even as you are, marryd: for do not imagine that your marriage is more canonical

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than

than mine, because the ceremony was performd by a canon of the imperial cathedral of Lùbeck. Yes ! I am, in good sooth, a husband ; though not in the style of George Dandin, God be praised. I staid at Hall three weeks after my marriage, to recover with more convenience from a violent illness which I was seizd with at Leipfig.

I was at the beginning of my new state, fully employd in arranging my new acquirements, as those are wont to be, who has not been used to the enjoyment of them. At last we got safe to Berlin, where we found a handsom apartment ready for us, and there I left my dear little wife, in the hands of two ladys of my acquaintance, who live in the same house ; and went straight to Potsdam, to wait on the king. His majesty was pleasd to accept very graciously, the professions of my duty ; and to load me with favors. I have the honor almost every day to dine and sup with the king at Sansouci ; and I hear that
that

that I am to attend his majesty this summer on his journeys. By these means my wedlock will not have that dull uniformity, which so frequently disgusts, when a married pair live like two turtle-doves in a cage. On every return from a journey, my wife will have the fresh charms of novelty. It is true, that this is a sort of constrained frugality, in the enjoyment of our pleasures; but it is a frugality that naturally tends to procure them a longer duration. About next autumn, however, I hope to pass some weeks at Berlin: and take possession of a large house that I have purchased there. It stands in that fine street they call Williams street; and was lately inhabited by his excellency count Keyserling, the Russian minister. It is a very good house, and almost new: the main body is grand and elegant; the wings are very extensive; and at the end of each wing is a pavilion: there are four courts of different dimensions; a stable for twenty horses; coach houses; vaults, &c.

This building contains forty rooms, which are lofty, regular, and well disposed. The garden is of an uncommon extent, and surrounded by a high brick wall; it lies next the roial Thier garden, but there is a passage between them: it is at present a mere desert; but they are daily employd in levelling and improving the soil; and I am now busyd in sketching out the plan of it, which I hope by October next, to carry into execution.

Forgive me, my dear sister, for thus troubling you with my household affairs: but as I know you take great part in all that concerns me, I hope these trifles will not displease you. Another time I shall say less of these matters, and endeavour to entertain you with more worthy subjects. Embrace my dear brother-in-law, with whom I have the greatest desire to be personally acquainted. As soon as I have set my house in order, I shall invite you to pass some time under my roof. Farewel, my dear sister.

L E T-



L E T T E R X X X I I I .

To my Sister, the Baroness Mann-
teufel, at Leuwarden.

Berlin, March 20, 1749.

My dear Sister,

THE boys and girls of this world, are like the vessels in a potters shop : when the lid is fitted to the pot, they presently go off together. Who would have thought, my dear Sophy, that you should be marryd to an officer, and that your fortune should carry you to live with your husband in Holland? All the world says, however, that you have made a very prudent choice ; that your husband is a gentleman of very uncommon merit ; that he is the brothers son of the celebrated count Manteufel, cabinet minister to the

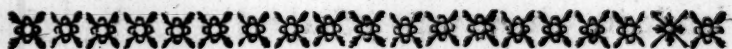
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king of Poland, who lives at Leipſig, and does ſo much honor to learning; that he has ſervd in the troops of Saxony with great reputation, as well as in thoſe of the republic of Holland, where he has arrived to the degree of a major; that he has a father ſtill living, and poſſeſſed of a conſiderable fortune in Poland; and beſide all this, that he is young, and has an agreeable perſon. Theſe, my dear ſiſter, are, in fact, noble advantages, and not only juſtify the reſolution you have taken of leaving your friends and your country, but promiſe, at the ſame time, great happineſs in futurity. May the event answer theſe juſt expectations! May the fulneſs of all bleſſings attend you in Holland! May the dread ſiſters ſpin the thread of your life, with ſilk and gold, to a long extent! And may your poſterity prove an unſpeakable comfort to your latter days!

You know, that when I was quite young, I livd almoſt three years at Leyden, where I ſoon learnt the language. The firſt
im-

impressions of the manners of the Hollanders; their way of thinking; and favourite pleasures, are deeply engraved on my mind. I found their manner of living quite agreeable. The Hague, Utrecht, and Leuwarden, especially when the prince of Orange had his court there, were highly pleasing to me. I hope they will be so to you, for your grave manners will well agree with the phlegm of the inhabitants of that watry country.

As often as you can, let me have the pleasure of hearing from you, for you know that I have a tender concern in every thing that regards you. My wife embraces you: before many months are over, she seems very likely to confer on me a new title—Dont be surpris'd; it is that of a father.



L E T T E R XXXIV.

To M. von Stúven, at Brunswick.

Breitenheyn, September 5, 1750.

YOU dont know then, it seems, my dear Stúven, that I have pasd almost the whole summer in Altenburg Saxony, at a very pleasant seat, that belongs to Madam von S——, my wifes sister: for there I have receivd those letters you directed to me at Berlin. But dont imagin that I have been all this time lounging in the country: far otherwise. I have here begun and ended a law suit, concerning a dispute my wife and sister in law have had with some distant relations, for these twenty years past, about some possessions, which, when the matter came to be strictly examind, they had not the least

least claim to. In short; after obtaining nine successive decrees, all of the same tenor, and all in our favor; we were put in possession of the valuable estates of Treben and Hasselbach *.

As soon as I had brought this weighty contest to an issue, I set about making the necessary partition between my wife and my sister in law; who has taken possession of Breitenheyn, as I of Treben and Hasselbach. These lands are rich, and situate

* Baron Bielfeld was certainly very happy, to obtain nine decrees in one summer; in some countrys he might have been nineteen years in obtaining them, and not have got possession of his estates after all; and this was formerly the case in Prussia; but Frederic, by one supreme Fiat, has decreed, that all causes shall be liquidated within the course of a year: and by thus subduing the intestine enemys of his people, he has proved himself to be their rightful father; and has laid up for himself unspeakable satisfaction, in those important moments, when his victorys, his conquests, his triumphs, shall pass before his sight, like the images of a gay dream.

in a very pleasant country : but the buildings, especially the mansion house, are gone quite to decay ; and I see full well, that it will cost me a large sum, to repair and furnish it.

Scarce had I set these matters in order, before my wife brought me a daughter, which all the world says is pretty, and which, in the fathers eyes, appears a little miracle of beauty. My wife was not yet recovered from her indisposition, when the court of Saxe Gotha came to Altenburg, there to hold a session, as is their custom every four years : as a new vassal I thought it my duty to repair to that town, which is but nine miles from Breitenheyn. I had no reason to repent of my trouble, for her serene highness the dutchess of Saxe Gotha, one of the most sagacious and benign princesses in all Germany, loaded me with distinguishing marks of favor. His serene highness, the duke, gave me the investure of my estates with all the usual formalitys. I had also there
the

the honor to wait on the hereditary prince, who was just return'd from Paris; and who in the course of his travels, has acquired a thousand valuable qualifications, by which he appears in the highest rank of excellence. The presence of the young duke of Weimar too, who was there at the same time, added greatly to the lustre of that court.

At length I return'd to Breitenheyn, where I propose to stay till the beginning of November. Between whiles I go to Treben, where I have begun the more necessary improvements. If you hold your purpose of going to the Leipfig fair, I entreat that you will come and spend some days with us country folks; you will have but twelve short miles to go back, and to you courtiers, the novelty of a country life, may have something in it that is pleasing.

You desire that I would give you a description of the famed carousal, that has been lately held at Berlin: but to my mortification I could not be there at that

1

time:

time : country people must not run about every where. Affairs of the last concern obliged me to return to the Altenburg country. However, I here send you the accounts that have been given me, of this noble tournament. It was performd on the great parade, which they call the kings garden ; and which on this occasion was adorn'd with the utmost pomp and elegance. Directly opposite the end of the course, a grand gallery was built for the king, the queens, the princes and princesses, and their attendants : and immediately under it, a lesser one, for the princess Amelia, who was to distribute the prizes : and for the four judges : on each side was erected, a spacious building in form of an amphitheatre ; one of which was for the nobility, and the other for the magistrates and citizens of Berlin : and the whole course was illuminated by several thousand lamps of different colors.

The knights were divided into four squadrons ; one of which represented, the
Romans ;

Romans ; another, the Carthaginians ; a third, the Greeks ; and the fourth, the Persians : and these squadrons had for their leaders, the prince of Prussia, prince Henry, prince Ferdinand, and the margrave Charles. Each squadron consisted of sixteen knights ; and before each, went a great number of servants, in proper habits, with led horses : and a full band of music, adapted to the nation they were designed to represent. Every one agrees, that the magnificence of these knights, as well as their leaders, surpassed all description. On every side was seen the effulgence of silver, gold, brilliants and other rich jewels, of various colors : so that a more sumptuous appearance cannot possibly be imagin'd.

All this noble company assembled in the great street, where they were marshaled by the kings master of the horse ; from thence they march'd, by the light of torches, under the palace, cross the tilt yard, and the Freyheit, and so to the place of rendezvous.

When

When they were drawn up in proper order, the signal was given; and the knights, as well as their leaders, contended for the prize, with inexpressible ardor; by running at the ring with their lances, and by attacking the head with their javelins, and their swords and pistols, with amazing vigor and dexterity. Three marshals, Messieurs von Schwerin; Kalkstein; and Keith; and the state minister M. von Arnimb, were the judges, who determined the prizes, which the princess Amelia distributed. And her highness they say, made on this occasion, a most resplendent figure; her dress was a silver stuff, covered with brilliants; and her natural charms blazoned by these ornaments, afforded the appearance of infinit beauty. The princess was attended by four ladies, all dressed in silver tissue. M. Voltaire, who was present at this splendid entertainment, was so highly pleased, that he made on the spot the four following verses, which he presented to the princess.

“Jamais,

“ Jamais, dans la Grece & dans Rome

“ On ne vit de tels jeux, ni de plus dignes
prix

“ J’ai vu les fils de Mars, sous les traits
de Paris

“ Et Venus qui donnoit la pomme.”

“ Never were such games seen in Greece.

“ or Rome, nor more noble prizes : each

“ hero had the appearance of a Paris, and

“ Venus gave the apple.”

The king found this performance
so pleasing, that he orderd it to be
repeated on the next afternoon, that it
might be seen what appearance it would
have by the light of the sun. The prin-
ces and the knights obeyd with pleasure,
and the spectators were utterly unable to
determin, to which of these two exhibitions
they should give the preference.

While I was writing this account, which
I have extracted from different letters that
have been sent me, I receivd a copious
printed description of it, drawn up by ba-
ron Polnitz, and which I think I cannot
do

66 L E T T E R XXXV.

do better than send you, as it will supply the defects in the relation I have here made.

{ Prepare for your journey, my dear brother, and come quickly hither, where you will see the metamorphosis of a courtier into ploughman.



L E T T E R XXXV.

To M. C** von A***, at D**.

Sir,

Berlin, May —, 1751.

THE late M. Desmaizeaux, who was personally acquainted with almost all the celebrated writers of the age of Lewis XIV. talkd to me once with rapture, of that perfect unanimity which reignd amidst those great men : and among many other remarkable anecdotes, he told me that Peter and Thomas Corneille ;
Racine ;

Racine; Chapelle; Moliere; Patru; la Fontaine; la Bruiere, and other writers of the first class, attracted by a mutual esteem for each others merit; formd themselves into a society, and oftner than once in a week, they had a common supper; where the pleasures of the table were the least part of the entertainment, and where the conversation, I doubt not, was far more worthy to be recorded, than that of seven wise Greeks, related by Plutarch; or the table talk of the holy Luther.

Moliere, one of the most gay, of this learned company, was frequently their host; especially at a villa he had on the borders of the Seine, near Paris: his worthy guests were too good judges of pleasure, to suffer intoxication to usurp the seat of wit and learning; tho Bacchus was frequently admitted to enliven the spirits of the Muses.

It happend however one evening, at Moliere's country house, that the host being quite fatigued, could no longer keep his

his post, but left it to Chapelle, and retired early to bed. Chapelle, in order to increase the spirits of his company, pushed the champaign briskly about, and intoxication stole in, unthought of. They began to talk of morality, and consequently of the futility of the pleasures of this world, and they came at last to this conclusion: That the great object of human life should be, by some renowned action, to acquire immortal fame. From this one of the company took occasion to say: "Gentlemen; this being the case, "since life is so worthless, and fame so desirable, what can be more eligible, "what more noble or more glorious, than "by shaking off this load of life, to acquire eternal renown? My advice therefore is, that we should all go together to "the river, and there plunge in; and by "thus dying in that unity with which we "have lived, our names and our friendship "will be celebrated by all posterity." The vapors of the wine had so far heated their imaginations,

imagination, and clouded their judgments, that this proposition, extravagant as it was, appeared highly rational. They prepared therefore, with great solemnity, to advance to the Seine, and there offer this sacrifice to fame.

A poor old servant, who however was sober, understanding their design, ran in and wakd his master; Moliere presently appeared among them; was immediately acquainted with their intention, and invited to partake of their immortal fame. He thought it not prudent, directly to oppose their project, but said; " My dear friends, " I approve your design extremely, and " am very ready to partake of so glorious " a death, but by no means now; for posterity may insinuate, by its being performed at so late an hour, that it was not the effect of philosophy, but inebriety, " and so important an action should be free " even from a possibility of reflection: " my advice therefore is, that every one " repair to his bed, and that we assemble " early

“early in the morning, and then with that
“coolness and serenity, which is becom-
“ing of philosophers, carry this noble de-
“sign into execution.” This improve-
ment in their scheme, met with universal
approbation, and every one, except Mo-
lière, retired contentedly to bed: and no
doubt the next morning shudderd at that
rashness which a few hours before had ap-
peard so prudential; and at the irreparable
injury which they had well nigh done to
the republic of learning.

I relate this singular anecdote, sir, to
show that pleasing harmony in which the
men of genius and learning of the age of
Lewis XIV. livd with each other. A har-
mony that must necessarily be attended
with the greatest advantages; as by this
mean they mutually communicated their
observations and discoverys to each other;
and the work of every particular member,
receivd the correction and improvement of
the whole. And in consequence of this
agreement, you will find moreover, that
these

these men of true genius, never in their writings depreciated each other ; on the contrary, their works afford frequent instances of reciprocal eulogys ; which are not only polite and ingenious, and were animating to the respective authors, but are highly proper to excite a desire in other authors, to attain an equal degree of excellence.

It is true that Boileau, la Bruiere, and some other writers of eminence, have attackd Cottine and others of his class ; but these were in fact a race of scriblers that deservd the rod ; it was rooting out those weeds that would destroy the taste and salubrity of the corn. And yet I dont know whether I should approve or condemn Boileau, for employing his satire against such wretched writers. The critical art is doubtless of the highest importance in the republic of letters : for without it, we should be lost in a deluge of useless and fordid productions. But on the other hand it is greatly detrimental, when by an un-
 mited

mitted severity, it checks the rising genius, who is fearful of exposing his early productions, his blossoms and tender fruits, to the nipping frost, and rude winds of criticism.

I think I see in M. Despreaux, not so great a desire to improve an useful art, as to discover faults, and to furnish out a poignant satire. The writers he attacks are of that sort, who when left to themselves, naturally plunge into the abyss of obscurity. Nobody now reads their works; they are not to be found in the collections of the learned; nor even in the booksellers shops. No traces of them are to be met with but in the writings of M. Despreaux. And it must be owned at the same time, that indifferent works have their use. For by comparison they make those which have real merit appear more eminently excellent. And the number of the latter is so small, that without the aid of the former, a man who has a strong propensity to reading, would soon be at a loss for employment.

ment. And let the critic say what he may, there is scarce any book that does not afford some instruction, or amusement.

In these days, when a writer of real ability publishes his work, he has just reason to expect censure. For he is not only subject to the critic of his rightful judge the public ; but to the caprice of an ignorant and despicable bench of judges, who call themselves journalists. Now as these seldom agree in their judgment, and as truth is ever the same, it necessarily follows that they are seldom in the right. The greatest part of these journalists moreover, have never produced, nor are capable of producing, a work of merit. And yet they decide with the authority of a dictator ! and that too on all sorts of subjects ; for one and the same head, and oft times a very empty one, shall decide on works of theology and anatomy ; pathology and navigation ; poetry and chemistry ; dramatics, metaphysics, cases in law and equity, &c. &c. And what regard is to be paid to

such decisions? Just as much as to the news writers of the day; who almost entirely ignorant of the affairs of peace and war, pretend to disclose the secrets of all the cabinets in Europe: bring armies into the field, and regulate their operations, with all the importance of a commander in chief. I would not however be understood to condemn all journalists, for there are some, tho their number is small, whose judgment I honor, and from whose observations I receive real instruction. It is the temerity of the pretenders to criticism alone, that I mean to censure.

There is however an evil that gives me far more concern, than the spurious criticisms of these journalists. And that is, to see those indecent disputes, which to the disgrace of the human understanding, and to the prejudice of society, frequently happen between men, otherwise of the greatest merit. For it is by no means the love of truth, but self-love, jealousy, a desire of showing their abilities, and of attracting

ing

those senseless writers who would molest you, too much to vouchsafe them an answer. The first of these reasons is highly just (every one, however, is not permitted to go to Corinth); the other, tho equally just, is not so eligible. We are surrounded by friends, by tenants, by servants: and when these pay us a due regard, we think that we have nothing to fear from the rest of the world. But we frequently deceive ourselves. The critic has an outstretchd arm, his power extends over all the dominions of Europe. And could we by any means silence these, we should be in imminent danger of being poisoned by the fools.

Now this being the case, what sensible man would concern himself with the dangerous profession of an author, when a work of the highest estimation is liable to be vilifyd and disgraced, by a set of mercenary writers; miserable day laborers; pardon the expression; who having themselves no reputation to lose, are constantly
ready

ready to sacrifice that of others for a trifling pecuniary advantage. When I see instances of this sort, I am angry with myself, that I ever learnt to read and write.

Let us, Sir, in the midst of this infamous discordance, and the depravity of the times, endeavour to restore the learned harmony of the age of Lewis XIV. And if we cannot arrive to that excellence in our compositions, let us at least equal them in our unanimity; our friendship, and prudential regard for each other. For what concerns myself, you cannot have the least reason to apprehend any want of respect in me, for I have as great esteem and admiration of your writings, as I have affection and friendship for your person; and it is with the sincerest attachment that I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your, &c.



L E T T E R XXXVI.

To Madam von S * * *, at her Seat
at B * * *.

Madam,

Berlin, July 1, 1752.

AN incessant round of pleasure has totally exhausted my spirits: my nerves are all unbraced. Permit me, therefore, to quarter myself seven or eight days at B——, that I may recover from my fatigue. The weather has been amazingly hot, during the whole time of the diversions, on account of the marriage of his roial highness prince Henry *, the king's second brother, with the princess Wilhelmina of Hesse Cassel, the daughter of prince Maximilian.

* Prince Henry was born January 18, 1726, and consequently was at this time in his twenty-seventh year.

You

You desire, Madam, a particular description of this festival ; but it is impossible for me, at this time, to obey you. I am so completely languid, that I can scarce write a legible word. However, to show the desire I have to please you, by doing all that is in my power to do, I here send a short account of these entertainments ; which you know have many things in common with each other ; reserving a particular description till I have the honor to wait on you at B——. And I hope what I now send will satisfy your impatience in the mean time.

You know that the kings three brothers live in perfect friendship, which is not only a great happiness for themselves, but for every one who has the good fortune to approach them. You know likewise, that prince Henry, attended by a small train, has for some time past been making a tour in the empire. At Cassel he stayd fourteen days, where his highness might have said with Cæsar ; I came, I saw, I conquered.

querd. And this is not the only circumstance in which these heroes strongly resemble each other.

When the contract was settled, and the prince returnd to Berlin, he was pleas'd to speak very sparingly of the charms of his illustrious bride: and indeed, from the description he gave, it was impossible for any one to be prejudiced in her favor. The king, desirous of being more particularly acquainted with the figure of the princess, orderd her picture to be sent him privately from Cassel. It should seem as if the prince and the painter were in league with each other; for the figure he sent was in fact, right ugly.

After his majesty had kept the picture by him some days, he made the prince a present of it, who placed it on his table. The next day the prince of Prussia; who is not only a lover of, but an able connoisseur in, painting; going to visit his brother, observd this picture, and askd him whom it was intended for? It
is

is a mere work of fancy, said the prince, of which I have lately made an acquisition.—And then you acquired a very hideous figur, replyd the prince of Prussia; and they immediately talkd of something else. A few days after, the prince of Prussia came again to his brother, and said: The king tells me that he has sent you the picture of your bride, why do you make it such a wonderful secret? You are pleasant, Sir, replyd prince Henry; why you have seen it, and think it a very hideous figur. The prince of Prussia was quite confounded: and his highness, as well as the rest of the court, had the more reason to doubt the princess charms, as all the gentlemen of prince Henrys train, observd on this occasion, a very suspicious silence.

When the time that was fixd for the marriage ceremony drew nigh, the king sent count Kamecken, who is chief steward of the palace; to meet the princess; to complement her highness in his ma-

jestys name ; and to conduct her to Spandau. The journey was so orderd, that on the morning of the second day before the marriage, the princess was to arrive at that town, put on her state dress, and from thence make a short journey of three miles to Charlottenburg ; where the king and the two queens waited to receive her.

The prince of Prussia, and the princes Henry and Ferdinand, accompanyd by prince Lewis of Wurtemberg, and a small number of courtiers, went early in the morning to Spandau. The prince of Prussia, who has a palace there, and whose regiment is there in garison, orderd a grand dinner to be prepared. About eleven the princess arrived. But how great was the astonishment of the prince of Prussia, when he saw descend from the coach, a lady of consummate beauty, adorn'd with every grace, and every charm still heightend by the splendor and elegance of dress. The prince stood at first quite motionless ; but a little recovering himself,

himself, he was just able to offer the princess his hand, and conduct her into the palace. Every one present was equally struck with amazement, and which was still increas'd, when, by her highnesses discourse, they found that the charms of her mind, were nothing inferior to those of her person.

The conversation at table was gay; all restraint was laid aside; every one gave the reins to wit and pleasantry, and every heart was devoted to the queen of the feast. The prince of Prussia in particular, gave the strongest marks of the warmest friendship and brotherly affection. Prince Henry laugh'd inwardly, and in good truth he had reason to laugh, for it must certainly give him great pleasure, to have deceiv'd the whole court in so agreeable a manner.

When the king was inform'd that the princess was arriv'd, he went into the court before the palace, and receiv'd her highness as she came out of her coach. The

princess made the king a complement, that was at once sprightly and respectful; which his majesty answerd by a very tender and affectionate embrace. The queens and the princesses were charmd to find, that the court of Berlin had made so glorious an acquisition: and every one gave themselves up to joy.

As since my marriage I have been dispensd with, from constantly attending on prince Ferdinand, I was at that time in Berlin, where, the night before the nuptials, I receivd the kings orders to come to Charlottenburg for three days. I was in no small pain, lest I should be forgot: however, I held all my accoutrements in constant readiness. On the day of the grand ceremony, I went after dinner to the palace, where I found the whole court assembled, and in the highest galla. I was quite impatient to see the princess; and that I might indulge in that pleasure, I placed myself at the door of the chapel, where the illustrious pair were to perform
the

the sacred rites. The roial family presently appeard; but my eyes sought nothing but the princess, and remaind fixd on her. Her appearance was that of more than mortal beauty. She bore a roial crown upon her head, and her long curling hair flowd gracefully oer her shoulders. Her robe was white, richly brocaded with silver; and the magnificence of her dress seemd to vie with the charms of her person. Struck with the sight of so much awful beauty, I remaind fixd with amazement: and that tender concern I ever entertaind for prince Henry, drew tears from my eyes, when by the roaring of the cannon I found that his happiness was complete.

I shall reserve the particular description of the entertainments which the king gave on the three following days, to make part of our conversation, and shall content myself here with saying; that the first day the whole court appeard in the richest state dresses; and on the two others, in domino,

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domino, on account of the excessive heat of the weather. The table was sumptuously servd ; there were Italian operas, French comedys, balls, illuminations, fire works, and every thing else that roial munificence could procure, to increafe the natural joy of the court ; and to make this festival worthy of that important event which gave it birth.

The roial family staid five days after the marriage at Charlottenburg, and on the sixth the princess made her public entry into Berlin ; where they are now building a stately palace for his roial highness ; who in the mean time resides in that which formerly belongd to the Schwerinischen family, and is near to the house where I now live. At his present place of residence the prince entertaind the king, the two queens, and all the court, with inconceivable magnificence. The company consisted of four hundred persons, who were seated at six different tables ; and the supper was followd by a ball, which lasted.

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lasted till seven in the morning. The whole front of the palace was illuminated, and the prince, who gave this entertainment, as an instance of that acknowledgment to the king, with which his heart was filld; caused his majestys cipher to be placed in the midst of these beautiful illuminations, over which was seen the roial crown, with this motto,

“ Optimo regi, optimo fratri.”

The inhabitants of Berlin are unable to content themselves with beholding the princess, and tho I have, almost every day, the honor of waiting on her roial highness, yet I believe that for a long time, I shall be in the same situation with them.

I have the honor to be, &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XXXVII.

To my Lord C * * *, at London.

Berlin, December 12, 1752.

YOU have been misinformd, my lord ; the Invalids which the king has built at Berlin, is by no means so sumptuous as those of Paris, Greenwich, or Chelsea ; where so much has been expended in marble and sculpture, in painting and gilding. This of Berlin has nothing to attract the eye, but its vast extent. The main body consists of a very spacious building, to which are added four wings ; two of which form the fore court, and two the hind court : and at the end of each wing is a detachd building. Two of these are dedicated to religion ; one for the Protestants, and one for the Romanists ;

manists; the other two contain apartments for the officers. The only external ornament that I have remarkd, is the principal entrance; the design of which is regular and beautiful: and over the pediment is placed this apposite motto:

“Læso, sed invicto Militi.”

Now tho this building have not that external pomp which dazels the eye; yet in the plan of its government, it is highly worthy of admiration. This Invalids does not resemble one of those painted sepulchres, which, to use a scripture phrase, are outwardly adorn'd with granite and porphyry, and inwardly cover'd with corruption, and fill'd with dead mens bones; and afford a shocking emblem of the miseries of human life. This is indeed an infirmary, but an infirmary built by a roial hand; where the soldier, disabled by victorious wounds, or enfeebled by age, finds an asylum against those evils that constantly pursue, helpless poverty. Here they are well lodgd, well clothd, well fed,

fed, and well attended: and every one enjoys the freedom of worshipping God, in the forms of his own religion. The greatest attention is paid to the sick, by the physicians, surgeons, and apothecarys, appointed to this institution; who exert every faculty, to preserve the precious lives of those, who have offerd themselves, as a willing sacrifice, for their country.

As the sudden change, from a life so full of action as that of a soldier, to a state of total inactivity, might be prejudicial to health; the king has orderd a number of gardens and fields to be annexd to this building; where every invalid employs himself according to his ability, and every one enjoys the fruits of his own labor *.

* This is a noble improvement upon the institutions of this sort, in London and Paris, and highly worthy of imitation: for tho the members of these latter may be allowd to follow their respective professions, yet how many are there of them that have no profession, and even those who have, are,
by

Such, my lord, is the plan of this truly godlike institution of Frederic: which may very properly be calld, “*pietas militaris*:” and the soldier who here finds comfort in the midst of distress, may say with Virgil,

“*Deus nobis hæc otia fecit.*”

by long disuse and infirmity, frequently renderd incapable; whereas there is scarce any man so ignorant or infirm, as not to be able, in some degree, to cultivate the earth; and tho the labor of these people, when considerd individually, may appear trifling, yet by so great a number collectively, it must be considerable; and if it should even add nothing to the common stock, yet must it certainly contribute to the health, the pleasure, and emolument of these, once useful members of society.

L E T.



L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To my Sister, von Stüven, at Brunswick.

Berlin, December 11, 1753.

YOU accuse me of idleness unjustly, my dear sister, for the pen is scarce ever out of my hand; but at the same time it is quite natural, that the various business which the king is pleas'd to commit to my care, and with which my time is totally employ'd, should interrupt the correspondence with my friends, and even with my dearest relations. The first leisure moments, however, that I could find, I have devoted to the pleasure of answering your letter.

They talk then, it seems, at Brunswick, of those extraordinary diversions, which for some time past have been exhibited

bited at Berlin, by order of the prince of Prussia and prince Henry: and you desire that I would give you a description of them: but that is desiring too much, my dear sister; for they have been so various, and so full of incidents, that it would require a large volume to satisfy your curiosity in every particular. I must content myself, therefore, with describing the most remarkable circumstances that occurred in two of these exhibitions; by which you may form a judgment of the invention and taste of the rest.

The first was; A representation of the Island of Pleasure. All those who were named to assist in this exhibition, received directions some time before, relative to the parts they were to perform, and the dresses they were to provide; and every one prepared with pleasure to support their respective characters. The prince of Prussia gave me the part of Apollo, and in the performing of that character, his highness desired that I would make a complement

plement in verse to the princess of Darmstadt, who was invited as a spectator ; and who, on account of her singular beauty, and many excellent endowments, truly merits as great an encomium as it is in the power of verse to give.

In a gallery of an uncommon width, the prince orderd an amphitheatre to be erected for the spectators. And in a large adjoining hall, a platform was raisd on a small elevation, on which there was the representation of an island, furrounded by arcades decorated with garlands of flowers; and encompassd, by a very ingenious contrivance, with a large piece of water.

Now as the design of this entertainment was not to represent the sensual pursuits of Epicurus, but those refined pleasures of Lucretius, which arise from genius, from taste, and a proficiency in the polite arts ; so the several performers were to exhibit the persons of those divinitys, by which the heathens represented these arts. Every one supported his part, either by a
speech

speech in character, or by some significant pantomime. Prince Henry as Orpheus, and the young lady Morienne as Euterpe, represented the power of music; the lady by her voice and a kind of guitar, which the prince accompanyd with his lyre. Next to music came poetry, in the figure of Apollo, in which character, after a short premeditation, I had the honor to make an address in verse to the princess of Darmstadt. In the exordium of which, I describe my disgust with continually sitting on the top of Helicon, and singing of gods and heros; with drinking of nothing but the waters of Hippocrene, and seeing no female company but the nine prudes. I then declare my intention of quitting the celestial regions, and residing in the Island of Pleasure. But first I desire to know what sort of people they are that dwell there, and who the prince that governs them, and in what manner I am likely to be receivd. These points being settled, I send my son,

son, as my plenipotentiary, to declare my design to all the world. I then take my leave of Helicon, regardless of the doleful countenances of the Muses; and, mounted on Pegasus, scour thro the airy regions in quest of this happy island; and after much inquiry find it must be in that country where great William, by his noble and sprightly diversions, fills every heart with joy. I then relate my journey through Prenslou*, where I saw a country, rough with the scars of Mars, by the magic power of a princess, adorn'd with all the beautys of Elysium. Charmd with the sight, I inquire for this princess in the Island of Pleasure; for can there be pleasure where she is absent? The people instantly cry out, with a thousand tongues, that without her their joy is imperfect. And prince and people, with one voice, intreat me to exert my powers to prevail

* The usual residence of the princess of Darmstadt.

on this princess to come and reside among them; and I then addressd her highness with these lines:

Come! princess, come! and deign to
grace our isle,

For in thy train, eternal pleasures smile;
Happy the land where you vouchsafe to
dwell,

Whose radiant charms all mortal powers
excel;

Thrice happy feast, your presence shall
receive,

There shall each joy, redoubled transport
give.

When music and poetry had payd their
respective contributions, if I may be al-
lowd the expression, to the general fund
of diversions; the other polite arts of ar-
chitecture, painting, and statuary enterd,
and displayd to the princess the most fi-
nishd productions in their several profes-
sions. When this representation was over,
several ladys and gentlemen of the court

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performd the principal scenes of a tragedy; and these scenes were so well connected, that they appeard to be one entire piece. After this followd a comic entertainment of one act, performd by other ladys and gentlemen; and the whole concluded with a very diverting pantomime, which was exhibited by the pages belonging to the princes. The time between this and supper was devoted to play: there were a number of tables, at which the company diverted themselves, for a short time, with quadrille and other games.

At ten, the court marshal to the prince, informd the company, that the supper was servd in the Pleasure island; and thither we all went in procession. The prince gave each gentleman a consort; in doing of which, his highness consulted not only the character that each represented, but the taste and inclination of his guests. My lot was highly enviable, for my consort was the young lady Sophia D——n; one of the fairest, wittiest, and

and most amiable ladys that Gormany ever produced. Her character, which she well sustained, was that of Minerva.

As we approachd the island, we saw the table, as it were, in the midst of the water. The arcades that surrounded it were highly illuminated; and the supper was in every respect perfect. The conversation was remarkably entertaining, as every one endeavourd to support his proper character. The pleasure of the dessert was greatly enlivened by a concert of music; not one of those noisy contentions of kettle-drums and trumpets, which stun the ear, and destroy conversation; and in which the empty great so oft take refuge; but a gentle, pleasing symphony, that was heard at a distance. We sat long at table, and a ball, that lasted till broad day, concluded this noble entertainment. When the prince of Prussia took leave of the company, he said to them; "Ladys and gentlemen, it is pity that this day should end so soon." Nobody found

more pleasure in these diversions than his highness; and nobody knows better how to procure and to adorn them.

Tho I fear my letter be already sufficiently long, yet must I say something here of the entertainment which prince Henry gave at Rheinsberg: of which, however, I was only a witness to the vestiges, so to speak, for I arrived there one day too late. The plan of this entertainment was; A representation of the court of France, in the minority of Lewis XIV. And the design of the representation was, to give prince Henry an opportunity of making the hereditary princess of Darmstadt, a present of some trifling furniture of the ancient Chinese lack, which his royal highness had contrived to offer in the most gallant manner, and so that the princess could not possibly avoid accepting it. For this purpose her highness was requested to perform the part of the queen-mother, Ann of Austria; and as a due observance was to be had to the history of that time,

so

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so the ambassadour of Siam was introduced, bringing the queen mother the intended present; and to the king, who was yet a child, a present of confections.

Great diligence was used in procuring the description and prints of those persons and dresses, which were design'd to be represented. The young and charming lady Forcade, maid of honour to her illustrious highness the princess, dress'd in the habit of a child, represented the king. The prince of Prussia, with an enormous peruke, and a large black cloak that had a train four ells long, perform'd the part of the chancellor; and prince Henry, in a proper habit, that of cardinal Richelieu. The rest of the court, each one dress'd in character, represented some person of that time, including the hundred Swiss, and all other attendants: so that every one, down to the domestics, perform'd some part in this exhibition.

As the night happen'd to be remarkably fine, the court assembled under the colon-

nade, which is at the end of the palace; and from whence there is a view of the Rheinsberg lake. This colonnade was gaily and richly decorated; the illuminations were grand and elegant; and at the end of it, there was erected a throne for their majestys. By all accounts, the resemblance of the French court at that period was so strong, that it was scarce possible for the spectator to imagin himself to be any where else. Now they cryd out; "Here comes monf. the chancellor; then, there goes monf. the cardinal; presently after, here comes the queen mother; and then, here comes the king."

Every one took their appointed stations. The king seated himself on his throne, by the side of the queen his mother. Presently was seen, at a distance on the great lake, two barks, which were adorn'd with streamers, and every part of them crowded with lamps. They had on board, the ambassadour from Siam, his retinue, and the intended presents. Their appearance, every

every one agrees, had a most pleasing effect. The ambassadour was magnificently appareld, in the mode of the Siamites; as were his interpreter, and all his attendants.

As soon as the bark touchd the shore, he landed; and at the head of his retinue, walkd up to the colonnade, where he was receivd by some persons belonging to the court, who conducted him to the master of the ceremonys, by whom he was introduced to an audience of the king. He then made a speech that was completely unintelligible; the substance of which was repeated by the interpreter; and then deliverd his credential letters, and concluded with offering the presents that he had brought. The prince of Prussia, as chancellor, answered him, in a long and very entertaining speech, which he concluded with a stroke of pleasantry at the design of his brother prince Henry, in these words: "Her majesty the queen mother,

“ jesty, as a token of his friendship, and
 “ not from any regard to its intrinsic
 “ merit; for his excellency may be assured,
 “ that her majestys chaise percée, with
 “ reverence be it spoken, is coverd with a
 “ lack, nothing inferior to this which he
 “ here offers.” Every one laughd heartily,
 at this drole conclusion.

After the ambassadour had been entertained, with a view of every thing that was curious, in the palace and the gardens, which by being splendidly illuminated, afforded a most agreeable walk; they sat down to supper, at several small tables in the same hall. When the dessert was servd up, the young lady M—— entertained the company with a very diverting interlude. She stole out of the hall unperceivd, and dressd herself in a black robe, trimd with a large quantity of flame colord ribbons, and many other grotesque ornaments. Then came in a messenger, with news, that Christina queen of Sweden, was come to visit the king, attended by her favorit

vorit Monaldeschi. Every one stood up to receive her Swedish majesty: and lady M—— playd her part so well; enterd with so much ease and spirit, into the character of that famed northern queen, as astonishd and charmd the whole company. After table this court of Lewis XIV. was entertaind with a ball, at which they danced *passé-pieds*, *amiable-vainqueurs*, *rigadoons*, and *sarabands*, in their antique habits; which afforded a very diverting appearance.

I should never have done, my dear sister, were I to describe all the entertainments which their highness the princes have given, within these two or three years past. Soon after these I have mentioned, there was a lively representation of the inquisition at Goa; and of their manner of passing sentence; agreeable to the account given in a book calld, *The Religions of all Nations*. A solemn *Auto de fe* was held; the prince of Prussia and I, were the devoted victims of this holy tribunal: we

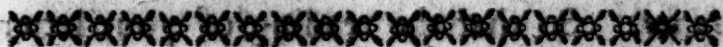
were falsely accused of adultery, and condemned to be burnt. Then a Turkish feast was exhibited, with a representation of the seraglio. Soon after, a feast of the gods assembled on Olympus. Then, a rape of the shepherdesses, by the wild inhabitants of the woods. Now there was a representation of the Elysian fields; and then of a religious cloister. Sometimes a scene in Don Quixote was exhibited; and then a combat of knight errants, for their divine princess. And still twenty more, of infinit taste and variety.

The resplendent genius of these princes, was every where manifest; and never, I believe, in any entertainments, were sense, taste, and spirit, more happily united. It is amazing to see with what ease and rapidity, these illustrious generals can transport themselves, from the bustle and rage of war, to the pleasing amusements of peace; from the rough field of Mars, to the enchanting blandishments of a court. Every where, and in all things, equally great.

I em-

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I embrace you, my dear sister, with that tender affection, which, to my latest breath, I shall ever be, &c.



LETTER XXXIX.

To M. von M * * *, at Hanover.

Potsdam, March 5, 1754.

YOUR letter, my dear friend, gives me inexpressible pleasur. The account you give of your journey thro France, is a chefdoeuvre: whatever you describe I seem to have before my eyes. I find myself present at every occurrence you relate.

In the outward appearance that a people make, there are a thousand alterations in the course of twenty years: but the ground work, the inner man, remains ever the same. The manners, the customs, and

various kinds of diversions, are continually altering in France, as well as the fashion of their dress: but the sentiments and character of the people are still the same. So that the reading of your letter brought Paris immediately before my sight, tho I have been absent from it many years.

The account you give of your fellow traveller is highly diverting. What a bizarre taste, to find pleasure in the company of none but farmer-generals? I know well enough, that these Messieurs, by their wealth, are enabled to purchase all the superfluities of life: but these they enjoy in such a taste, as ought not to induce a stranger to seek their acquaintance, or to wish to carry back with him to his native country, their knowledge, their manners, or their sentiments.

I was very young when I travelld; but the impetuosity of youth did not prevent me from remarking, that those of the nobility who devote themselves to the army,
hold,

hold, in outward appearance, a far superior rank to every other profession. And these are they from whom dignity of manners, urbanity of conversation, and elegance of taste, are to be learnt in the greatest perfection. The company of these men of quality is not to be enjoyd, however, without some danger; on account of the great number there is among them, whose fortune is unequal to their birth; and who frequently make the ignorant young stranger contribute to support their splendid appearance: for they are highly dexterous at discovering his foibles, especially his favorit passion, which they infallibly turn to their own advantage; so that the least failing such a stranger has in Paris, is sure to affect his purse. These military gentry are moreover furnishd with a very slender knowledge, and vanity seems to have fixd her residence in the midst of them.

Those of the nobility who attach themselves to state affairs, have less of the parade

rade of life, and still less of the refinement of manners; but they have more integrity, more learning, and apply themselves more scientifically to the business of their several departments. Their conversation is a school of real learning for the stranger, and the knowledge he there acquires he may carry with him to his own country, and use to advantage. These men of politics, tho' they breathe the court air, are not slaves to the court manners; they are not continually cutting capers, but go constantly pas a pas.

The enormous wealth of a farmer-general, frequently transforms him into a court ape; whose mimickrys are attended with a thousand absurditys; for, under a pompous appearance, the fortunate clown is constantly visible: like a founderd horse that walks in some state procession, under whose gorgeous trappings are still seen his wretched tottering limbs. Those who, in the midst of superfluous wealth, make less appearance of prodigality, are, in
my

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my opinion, far more respectable: and thereby avoid that envy and satir, which is frequently found so disagreeable. The first of these resembles some curious nymph, who trudges to court, dress'd in brocade, and blazond with diamonds; every one crys out, who is that? and instantly all the sluices of detraction are let loose against her: whereas, had she gone in a decent, tho elegant dress, instead of obloquy she might have attracted admiration.

I look on France as an old coquette, that entertains a thousand lovers at a time; who worship her with their purses, and whose profusion serves only to make them ridiculous. The conduct of these gal-lants is full of contradiction. When they reflect on their origin and station in life, they are struck with a dastardly confusion; but when they view their bags, stuff'd with louis d'ors, their pride disdains all shame; and, from these frequent transi-tions, it is difficult to know how to treat with this sort of gentlemen.

The

The citizens of Paris are the most honest and worthy set of people in the world. In their dealings they observe strict fidelity, and a punctuality that I have often wonderd at. They never neglect the public worship; piety is fixd in their souls. Their zeal for their king they carry even to enthusiasm. They are affectionate to their wives; and take great care in the education of their children. Tho they be surrounded by petit maitres, they are not in the least contaminated with their vices. In a word, they are excellent citizens. They are, however, rather blunt in their manners, have a low taste, and a confined way of thinking; so that a stranger who desires to figur in the great world, ought not much to frequent their company.

I cannot account for your fellow travellers conduct. By the understanding which he has, he should easily have discovered the truth of the reflections I have here made; and if he has discovered them, I cannot account for his finding satisfaction

in.

in no company but that of a financier. There seems to be some suspicion of avarice in the case; for I have remarkd, that they whose souls are infected with that vice, find the conversation of moneyd men alone agreeable.

As to what concerns you, my dear friend, you appear to have obtaind all the advantages which it is in the power of travel to give. What pleasure, what profit will it afford me, to attend to those judicious remarks, which so great a number of objects and incidents must have afforded you? Prepare to return to your native country, and take your way thro Berlin; I promise that you will not repent it; for after all that you have seen, you will still find something to admire in Brandenburg.

L E T -



L E T T E R XL.

To Madam von * * *, at Hamburg.

Potsdam, November 19, 1754-

FOR some time past, I have livd the life of a sober citizen of Berlin: there I am employd in cultivating my garden; and have never had the happiness to see the king, but once when he shoud himself in that capital. My leisure time I pass in study, and, in the hours of relaxation, I indulge in a friendly correspondence.

I remember, Madam, that some months since, you desired I would give you a description of the towns, palaces, and gardens, of Potsdam, Sans Souci, Schönhausen, Oranienburg, Rheinsberg, and Ruppín. I find myself to day in a writing humor, and will therefore endeavour

to

to satisfy your curiosity. You must not expect, however, a description of every particular; by no means; we must content ourselves, with a transient view of the principal objects only; for their multiplicity is such, that, were I to attempt it, I should far exceed the bounds of a letter. And beside, these palaces and gardens, for the most part, resemble some youthful beauty, to whom nature and art are incessantly adding fresh charms; which is daily altering, and daily improving.

You may remember, by the description I gave you of Potsdam, now fifteen years since, how that town is situated; I shall therefore say nothing of that here, but only add, that the king may say of Potsdam, in a sense strictly literal, what Augustus said of Rome: "I found a city of brick, and I have left a city of marble." Of the town therefore, as it now is, I shall describe those beautiful improvements only, which his majesty has there made.

You

You know, Madam, that since the reign of the great elector, Frederic William, Potsdam has been, in the finest months of the year, the residence of the sovereign of Brandenburg; and that the late king made many alterations and improvements there. But Frederic, who, whatever he undertakes, executes to the highest degree of excellence that human power can attain, has given to the town, as well as to the palace, an appearance entirely new: and by joining them together, has made the whole appear as one regular plan of building.

To the old Dutch quarter, there have been added two others; one of which is call'd the French quarter, and is inhabited by the refugees of that nation; and the other, the Italian quarter, and is contiguous to the palace. In the first the French manner of building is observ'd, and in the other that of Italy; for the fronts of these houses present the designs of Vitruvius, Palladio, Michael Angelo, Scamozzi.

Scamozzi, and other capital masters of that nation.

In the place before the palace, the king has caused a lofty obelisk of marble to be erected : and the Lutheran church, which is directly opposite the principal entrance of the palace, is adorned with a noble front of hewn stone, after the model of St. Maria Majora at Rome, which is the work of the celebrated Fuga. The assemblage of all these stately buildings strikes the eye with a pleasing astonishment. The new front of the church was at first objected to, as obscuring the light ; and the rector petitioned the king against it, complaining that the children were scarce able to use their singing books : but as the building was too far advanced to admit of any alteration, the king wrote on the petition, by way of answer, these words of scripture ;
 “ Blessed are they that believe, and have
 “ not seen.”

However, when the scaffold was taken away,

away, the light was found to be very little diminishd.

The king has causd another church to be built, which is destined to the use of those of the French nation, who are driven from their country on account of their religion. This is not so large as the other, but is built in excellent taste: the form of it is that of a round temple, and its front is adorn'd with a very beautiful range of columns.

The streets of Potsdam are broad, straight, and neatly paved, and run, almost all, in lines parallel with each other. At the end of the Dutch quarter, is a very spacious and pleasant market-place, in the middle of which is a large and beautiful basin, and in the middle of that, an island, in which, by the late king's direction, a very elegant gloriotta was erected. The military church; the orphan house; the riding school; the arsenal, and many other buildings there are in this town, highly worthy of the travellers attention.

The

The roial palace, with its gardens, is situated at the end of the town, and on the border of the Havel. This palace, which is of a very great extent, consists of a main body and two wings; and at the end of each wing is a large additional building, which are connected with each other by means of a semicircular wall, in the middle of which is a most magnificent portal: all these buildings form together a very spacious court. Originally the wings had only one story, but the reigning king has carryd them up to the same height with the main body: his majesty has likewise causd all the outside of this wall to be adorn'd with square fluted pilasters of the Corinthian order: these and the other ornaments are of their natural color, which is that of hewn stone; but the ground of the wall itself is of a bright red, which makes at once, a very singular and pleasing appearance. The roof of this building is coverd with blue copper, and surrounded by a balustrade and other
ornam-

ornaments, richly gilt. The cornice is supported by a number of beautiful figured columns, representing the gods, demi gods, and other renowned characters, in those fables, with which the ancients, by their metamorphoses, have disguised history.

The architect, who, it should seem, was desirous of paying his court to the favorite passions of his sovereign, placed at the chief entrance of the palace, two gigantic statues, one of which, armed with a bow, was to represent Apollo, and the other with a lyre, Hercules; the thought was, to be sure, wonderfully happy; for to give Apollo the bow, and Hercules the lyre, what was it but to express the character of a hero, who was, at the same time, a still greater proficient in the polite arts? Notwithstanding all this, the king, under a pretence that they appeared to him like two sentinels that were posted there; was pleased to order them to be taken away, and placed at the entrance of the park of Berlin.

On

On entering this palace, you see the grand staircase, which is of blue marble; and the balustrade, which is of iron, strongly gilt, is in the most noble and elegant taste of any thing that I have ever seen of that kind. When you have ascended this staircase, you pass thro a small antichamber, lined with green marble, and then enter a very spacious hall, whose walls are adorn'd with four pictures, so large that they completely cover the four sides; these paintings represent the triumphs of the great elector, and are the works of very able Italian masters. The ceiling is painted by Vanloo, and contains the apotheosis of the same elector; that great prince who laid the foundation of the Prussian monarchy. The lining and other decorations of this hall, are of marble, or metal gilt.

All the other rooms of this palace, of which there are an endless number, are highly ornamented, and furnish'd with infinit taste and magnificence. On every

side is seen gold, marble, sculpture, statuary ; and every other superb and elegant decoration. The tapestrys are of silver, ornamented with chenille and embroidery : the velvet is enrichd with silver and gold : the borders are of metal richly gilt : the tables are of porphyry and jasper : the consoles, the frames of the mirrors, and of the beds, and the pillars of the alcoves, are all of solid silver ; and the last of these are adorn'd with figurs of the same metal, representing Morpheus strewing his poppys. The multiplicity, variety, elegance and magnificence of these ornaments is such, that the eye is never satisfyd with beholding them : and the connoisseurs all agree, that in decoration and furniture, no palace in Europe can produce so great a profusion of riches and of taste.

From the palace you descend, by a large and noble flight of steps, to the garden ; which is furrounded by two beautiful colonnades, and has a prospect of the river.

On

On entering this garden, you find a very extensive parade, on which the king exercises his guards, and the garison of Berlin; and this parade may be properly calld, the school of the whole Prussian army: for whenever his majesty thinks fit to introduce any new exercise, his guards are first instructed therein, and then an officer from every regiment is calld to Berlin, who, when properly qualifyd, returns and instructs his whole corps: and this method is doubtless highly eligible; for the extent of the Prussian dominions is such, that the sending of officers to instruct every garison, would be attended with very great inconvenience.

This grand parade is borderd on one side by a very pleasant grove, in which there are walks quite down to the river; and this grove is adorn'd with a beautiful saloon; an orangery; and elegant arbours, pavilions, and statues. On the other side of the parade is the grand basin, in the middle of which is Neptune in his car,

as issuing from a rock, and drawn by sea-horses; all these figures are of metal gilt, and larger than the life. The views of this garden are various and beautiful; and the alleys afford the most pleasing walks that can possibly be imagin'd. The roial ecurie, which is at a small distance from the palace, and directly opposite the parade, is grand and spacious; and completes the uniform variety of the whole building.

All the scenes that I have here hastily described, are still far inferior to what the palace and gardens of Sans Souci present. This palace stands but a cannon shot from the gates of Potsdam. It is situated on the summit of a hill, at the foot of which flows the river Havel, which is there of a considerable breadth. As the king was walking one day over this hill, he stop'd a little on the top of it; and struck with the beautiful and extensive prospect, he determin'd to erect a small building there, which might serve as a casual summer retreat:

retreat: and his majesty himself drew the first plan of it. This building, which was originally no more than a roial lodge, is now become a summer residence, worthy of Frederic.

This palace has only one story, and is raisd from the ground by three steps, which go round the whole building: the roof is in the Italian taste; in the middle of it there is a small dome, and it is surrounded by a stone balustrade, ornamented with a number of vases and groups of children. The windows are lofty and circular, and continued quite down to the floor. The front next the garden is very richly ornamented; the cornice is supported by terms, and caryatides, which are placed between the windows. The front next the country, where is the principal entrance, is adorn'd with square fluted pillars of the Corinthian order. The two wings, which are on this side, are connected by a double row of pillars,

which form a colonnade, in the manner of that of St. Peters at Rome.

The inside of this palace is supremely beautiful: taste and magnificence every where accompany each other. It is impossible for me to describe all those wonderful productions of art, that here present themselves: every distinct part merits a minute description. What above all attracts my admiration, is the great hall; the sides of this hall are inlaid with antique marble, as are its two niches: in one of which is placed the figur of Concupiscence, and in the other that of Lucrece. These two statues are of white marble, and the work of the famed sculptor Adam, who by his long travel had acquired so singular a taste, that the sight of these statues would persuade us, that Adam was not the first man who had existence, but that these were of the race of pre-adamites.

This hall is surrounded on the inside by
a range

a range of insulated pillars, whose shafts are of Carrarian marble, and their capitals of metal richly gilt. The interior part of the dome is resplendent with gold, and illumind by circular windows on the side, and by a large opening in the center, coverd by glass cut in polygonal figures. The floor of this hall is of white marble, interspersd with porphyry and jasper of various colors, which are disposed with exquisite art, in the shape of different leaves, fruits, and flowers.

In the bed chamber the furniture is of a sea green satin, coverd with gold net work; the alcove is remarkably magnificent; and the whole is in a taste of perfect elegance: for all these sumptuous ornaments are calculated rather to please than to astonish the mind. The gallery is of a factitious rose colord marble, and is adornd with capital pieces of Watteau, Lancret, Pater, and others, the most celebrated masters of the French school. The only fault I find in this gallery is,

that it appears rather too narrow ; and I doubt not but his majesty will one day build a new and more spacious gallery, and add a collection of the principal performances of the first Italian masters.

But what pleases me above all in Sans Souci, is the kings cabinet, where his majesty studys ; which is at the end of the palace, next the bed chamber : it is of a circular form, and furrounded by book cases of cedar, curiously wrought and glazed, and decorated with festoons of gilt copper. Over these cases are placed the marble busts of the most renowned authors of antiquity ; these busts are originals, and came out of the cabinet of the famed cardinal Polignac. The space between the cases and the cornice is every where adorned with large medallions of bronze ; and on the ceiling is an Apollo, painted by Le Pefne. The chimney piece is of black marble of Aleppo, illumined with veins of divers colors. Over the chimney piece are mirrors, with metallic

talie frames, highly gilt. The curtains, the sophas, and the chairs are of rose colored silk, embroiderd with a beautiful design, in gold, and executed with surprising accuracy.

This apartment, which is an original of its kind, serves not merely to display the profuse magnificence of a great monarch, but is the study of a king, who is the favorit of the Muses. The shelves of these book cases are not loaded with volumes by the direction of the bookseller, which he estimates by the quantity of paper and print, or the pomp or delicacy of the binding: far otherwise; these shelves are filld with a small but rich collection, which forms a complete system of every kind of useful and ornamental learning; among which is a French translation of all those Greek and Latin authors, who bare the stamp of approbation of so many centurys: for beside those which are already printed, his majesty has causd to be translated, and preserves in

manuscript, every other ancient author of reputation: so that it may be truly said, that all the learning of antiquity may be acquired in the cabinet of Sans Souci; and that, without the trouble of learning their languages. Perhaps the learned world may one day be favord, from the pen of a roial philosopher; who the moment he is disengaged from public business, retires to this noble solitude; with a work worthy of his name; and to which the whole life of any other genius, would scarce be equal.

From the library you pass, under a spacious archway, to the garden; where you see the figur of Antinous on the point of plunging into the sea; this statue is of metal, and a master piece of antiquity: his majesty purchas'd it with the other curiosities of the renown'd prince Eugene of Savoy. The whole garden is peopled with statues of marble and bronze: among which are that of the fawn fucking the goat, so well known in Italy, by the name
of

of Fanno col capretto; and the piper, both antiques; the Mercury of Pigale; the fishery and hunting by the celebrated Francis Adam, the elder; Mars bound by Love; and many others of less note.

By the archway you likewise pass to a stately terrace, that runs the length of the whole palace; and from whence there is a most noble prospect. On one hand you see the town of Potsdam, as it were, under your feet; on the other, a beautiful wood of oak and beech; and in front, the whole garden presents itself, which is extended quite down to the river Havel.

This terrace, which directly faces the midday sun, is cut out of the hill, and is supported by a wall sixteen feet in height; in which are formed a great number of niches, almost contiguous to each other; before each of these are placed two glass doors, which go from the top quite down to the ground: and in these are planted by the king's direction, every sort of vine that Europe has produced. By the sou-

thern situation, the sandy soil, the heat of the sun, whose beams are collected and centerd in these niches; the protection that the glass affords against the severity of the weather, and the artificial heat which is communicated by fire in the early season; by all these natural and acquired advantages, his majesty is furnishd from his own garden, with every kind of grape, in as great perfection as it is possible for the hottest countrys of Europe to produce; for if there be any difference, it is in the skin alone, which in these is less tender, than in those which are exposed to the alternate moisture and roughness of the air.

To the left of this extraordinary vineyard, are seen the green houses; which are not less excellent in their kind. They are of a prodigious extent, and are heated by means of stoves, and pipes that convey the heat under the earth; and which are daily regulated by thermometers. These green houses contain as well a kitchen as a
flower

flower garden; and by these means, the kings table is provided at all seasons of the year, with every kind of fruit and vegetable. To the right of the vineyard is a grand and beautiful building, which contains the orangery. During the whole summer, on the borders of the terrace are ranged, orange, citron, pomegranate, and other trees, in blossom and in fruit; which when viewd from the garden underneath, afford an uncommonly pleasing prospect.

As soon as you descend from the terrace, the scene changes in an instant; every object appears in a new point of light. You see before you a garden, in every sense, truly roial. At every step you discover fresh beautys; the joint work of nature and of tasteful art. Basins furrounded with marble, springs, fountains, cascades; busts, statues, groups; vases, columns, obelisks; spacious walks, shady alleys, artful labyrinths; grottos, bowers, saloons adorn'd with natural foliage; in a word, every ornament that imagination can conceive,

ceive, here strikes the eye; but yet all disposed with that keeping, that reserve, which is so necessary to make even beauty itself agreeable.

At the end of the grand walk, which goes thro the whole garden, is a small wood of beech and oaks, that is stockd with deer, pheasants, and other game. His majesty has joind this wood to the garden, and enclosed it with a wall; and there are various paths cut in it, which lead to a noble Chinese house, of a triangular form, that is highly decorated with marble and gold. On the other side is a colonnade of the most beautiful Carrarian marble, which is built in the form of that of Versailles.

Our monarch has not contented himself, with adorning his palace and gardens, with a magnificence truly majestic, but he has likewise embellishd the face of the whole country round about: so that wherever the eye turns, it is charmd by grand and pleasing objects. On an eminence,
for

for example, that faces the principal entrance of the palace, and is coverd with wood, a most noble piece of ruins is constructed; which appears to have suffered all the ravages of time, and of human desolation; and strikes the eye with a very singular pleasure.

Thus, Madam, I have given you a cursory description of Potsdam and Sans Souci; I proposd to have said something here of the summer palaces of our princes; but that must be at another opportunity, for I will not presume at this time, to claim your further attention.

I am, Madam, your, &c.

L E T-

 LETTER XLI.

To my Mother.

Berlin, October 20, 1754.

YOUR reflections, Madam, on those benefits which it has pleas'd the Divine Providence to bestow on me are extremely just; and I never think on them without offering the sacrifice of a thankful heart. The troubles of life I constantly place in the ballance against the enjoyments; and they convince me, every day more and more, of the vanity of all human pleasures. Every passion is follow'd by its own corrector. Wealth, rank, and fame, have constantly a number of troublesom attendants: and the anxiety in the pursuit of these, frequently exceeds the pleasure in the enjoyment.

To

To please those whom fortune has placed on the apex of human power, is the lot that many seek, and few obtain. A station that dazzles the vulgar eye, but in which the favored courtier finds only a seeming happiness: for it may be truly said; "that his days are constantly attended by envy and anxiety." The difficulty of preserving that favor he has once obtained, is an incessantly corroding care. A small fault is sufficient to obliterate the merit of twenty years faithful service; and what man is so vain as to flatter himself, that amidst all the embarrassments of a public life, he shall never make one false step? So that the courtiers happiness, you see, Madam, hangs on a slender thread.

These reflections affected me so strongly, that I determin'd to seek an asylum against the storms of a court, in a fortunate marriage; and have obtained my purpose in more respects than one. But even the pleasures of this union have been destroy'd by a most bitter portion. Death continu-
ally

ally snatches my children from my arms. One grave already contains three sons, and a daughter ; the fruits of my marriage, and the comfort of my life. What deep wounds have these strokes, which it has pleasd the Divine Providence to lay upon me, made in my heart ? What misery does that father not suffer, who loses the child he tenderly loves ? How dearly have I proved all the horrors of that state, by these severe repeated trials ?

Formerly when I waked, the first moments of the day were blestd with the sincere caresses of a lovely, harmless infant ; now the beginning of the day, is the renewal of sorrows ; the moment that I wake, the most cruel and frightful images fill my soul ; I see all my dear children in the arms of death : these ghastly ideas are fixd in my mind, and poison all the pleasures of my life ; even in the midst of that tumult of joy with which I am surrounded, and in which I only seem to bear a part. The loss of my
last

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last child, my beloved Augustus, has made all my wounds bleed afresh; all my children have died again in him: and my heart feels incessant pangs, when I see my poor wife, bathed in tears, distracted with grief, at the very time that she is on the point of giving me the fresh fruit of our marriage.

O may those moments pass happily over! May the birth of this child dry all the tears from our eyes! May its life be extended far beyond that of its brethren! And may its happiness prove the joy and comfort of our latter days!



L E T T E R XLII.

To Madam von ***, at Hamburg.

Berlin, December 12, 1754.

YES, Madam, to promis and to perform are with me one and the same thing. As you are pleasd to approve of my

my former descriptions, and wish to be acquainted with Oranienburg, Rheinsberg, and Ruppín, I shall, without further preface, endeavour to satisfy your curiosity.

The small town of Oranienburg, which lies twelve miles from Berlin, owes its existence, in great part, to Henrietta of Orange, the consort of the great elector Frederic William, and the mother of Frederic the first king of Prussia. That princess, assisted by the munificence of her illustrious consort, caused an extensive and beautiful palace to be built there. The town itself was by her orders, adorn'd with many noble buildings, with two churches, one for the Calvinists, and the other for the Lutherans : with a well built and richly endow'd orphan house, and with many other useful and pious foundations. The streets of this town run in parallel lines, and the buildings are regular and elegant. A spacious road, border'd with four rows of lime trees of near a mile in length, joins the
great

great street, that leads directly up to the palace ; before which is a large semicircular platform.

This palace, which forms an exact square, and is surrounded by a broad and pleasant moat, borderd with stone ; consists of a main body and four wings, each of which is terminated by a gay pavilion ; and these wings form two grand courts. You enter the first court by a stately bridge, which, as well as the balustrade that surrounds the moat, is decorated with statues. The two pavilions that terminate those wings which are behind the main building, are connected with each other by a double row of pillars, over which is a very elegant balcony.

The rooms of this palace are spacious, lofty, regular, and very numerous : the great hall is in every respect highly beautiful : but nothing attracts the admiration of the curious so much, as the grand staircase, the plan of which was drawn by the celebrated Schlüter ; and is so contrived,

trived, that from the ground, there is a clear prospect of the magnificent dome with which it is covered : it is divided into as many parts as there are storys ; at each story there is a reposing place, and each division is supported by marble pillars : those of the first story are green ; the second are white ; and the third brown variegated with veins of white ; the bases and capitals of these pillars are of metal richly gilt. The balustrade is of gilt iron. The walls are adorned with grand and beautiful paintings. In the reposes are niches, in which are placed statues of bronze. In a word, for elegance of design, and richness of execution, the whole is a most finished piece of its kind. The chapel ; the porcelain gallery ; the ground hall ; and many other parts of this building ; afford the highest satisfaction to the connoisseur.

The gardens of Oranienburg are of great extent, and were designed by Le Nautre, one of the principal deffinateurs
of

of Lewis XIV. the same who drew the plans of Versailles, Trianon, Marley, &c. A remarkable incident has attended these gardens, and contributed greatly to their beauty. In M. le Nautres plan, the alleys, which are all of beech, were directed to be kept constantly cut; and his orders were punctually observed till the year 1713, when the late king came to the crown, whose thrifty disposition could not bear the expence necessary for these matters; so all was left to the care of nature, for the space of twenty-four years, which was the length of the late kings reign. During this time, these trees increased amazingly, and became so closely united with each other, as to form the most delightfully shady walks imaginable: for these shades are so thick that neither sun nor wind can penetrate them; so that you walk at noon day without the least inconvenience from the heat, and when you sup at night by wax-light, there is not wind sufficient to move the flames of the candles.

When

When the king gave Oranienburg to his brother the prince of Prussia, this prince immediately retriev'd it from that state of desolation into which it had fell, and by a kind of enchantment converted it into a most noble and pleasing residence. The judicious gardener, by numberless different alterations, has made the wild luxuriance of nature, subservient to beauty and convenience; and his roial highness has adorn'd his gardens with a number of buildings in a very elegant taste: the most remarkable of which is a grotto, constructed on a kind of rock, and appears on the outside to be an old prison, just falling into ruins; but on the inside is adorn'd with the most beautiful shellwork, with corals, scarce minerals, crystals, and other ornaments of those kinds. His highness has likewise added a number of serpentine walks, that lead to orangerys, to dreary hermitages, gay bowers, &c. The grand canal which reaches from the colonnade quite down to, and joins with, the Spree, has been clear'd and made na-

vigable for gondolas and other small vessels.

In the palace the old furniture is removed, and its place supplyd by other, more elegant, and more conformable to modern taste: and to make his Oranienburg completely convenient, as well as magnificent, his roial highness has thereto added, a noble ecurie: and nature, the situation of this palace, the beauty of the circumjacent country, the river that waters the garden; every circumstance contributes to render this place a most delightful residence.

In the description of Rheinsberg, and Ruppín, I shall be less circumstantial, as I have already in two letters, that you have seen, which I wrote in the years 1739 and 40, to Madam von ***, and to my late father, at Hamburg, given some account of these places. As the king some years since gave Rheinsberg to his brother prince Henry, and the palace of Ruppín with its gardens to prince Ferdinand, I shall

here only repeat the principal circumstances that I have before related, and add in a few words, an account of those noble alterations and improvements which their highnesses have made in these sumptuous and pleasing dwellings.

The palace of Rheinsberg remains exactly in its former state: prince Henry has contented himself with ornamenting five or six rooms that were left unfinished, and with furnishing them in a taste and magnificence correspondent to the rest of the palace. The gardens, on the contrary, are altered, enlarged, and highly decorated. The orangery, which was only begun, is now completed, and consists of a spacious hall, and two elegant cabinets. His highness has likewise built a Chinese house, and a very pleasant grotto, in a private retreat on the border of the lake.

In this garden are likewise the ruins of a colonnade, which serve to cover an ice cave; the design of these ruins is highly pleasing.

sing. Rheinsberg has long been jestingly call'd Remusberg; and it has been pretended that Remus was banish'd by his brother Romulus to this country, which was then the Siberia of the Roman state. The prince has improv'd on this fanciful opinion, by supposing his ice cave to be the very grave of Remus. At the entrance of this cave he has therefore erected a pillar of the Tuscan order, on which is placed an urn, that seems to contain the ashes of some person of exalted rank: a number of broken pillars, and mutilated statues, that were found in the workmans shop at Rheinsberg, are placed round this grave, and represent very naturally, the ruins of a colonnade. The ground about it is planted with yews and cypress; and here and there are seen, disjointed capitals; large stones engraved with apposite inscriptions; and many other objects of the like nature; which altogether serve to fill the mind with the idea of an ancient ruin.

The theatre of verdant hedges, that

the prince has formd in this garden, is a masterpiece of its kind; and is adapted not only to dramatic representations, but to many other sorts of diversions, and festive illuminations.

You know, Madam, that the palace of Rheinsberg is situated by a large lake, that is borderd by a beautiful wood of oaks and beech: in this wood the prince has erected ten separate buildings, which are so many court hermitages, tho by no means in a desert: these buildings are of wood, and contain each, three handsom rooms, a kitchen and garrets; on the outside they are coverd with shells mixd with the bark of trees, and the roofs are of straw; on the inside they are plain and neat, and furnishd in a taste of perfect simplicity.

These buildings are so situated, as not to have the least connection, but at the same time not so far distant, but that the inhabitants can see and call to each other. In the midst of them is seen one larger than the rest, and ornamented with a small dome; this is the retreat

treat of the prince of Prussia; and has a hall which is used at dinner and supper, in rainy weather; but when the weather is fine, their refectory is a large pavilion of trellis, which is but a few paces distant from the hall: notice for dinner is given by ringing a great bell, three times; at the third ringing every one, including his roial highness, who will have no preference in this respect, repairs to the dining place. Before dinner these courtly cottagers pass their time, each one after his own manner: they breakfast, they read, they study, they walk or ride, or visit the ladys; they lounge or employ themselves, just as inclination shall prompt; and the same liberty is enjoyd after dinner; but at six in the evening, the whole company assemble to pay their court to the prince, and to partake of those pleasures which all enjoy in common. These regulations appear to me highly excellent, as they give to a court, all the freedom that it is possible for it to enjoy.

The palace of prince Ferdinand at Ruppin, where his regiment is in garison, was neither sufficiently magnificent nor convenient, to make it a place of constant residence ; especially when Hymen, by providing his roial highness with a worthy consort, shall increase the number of his court. The prince has therefore purchasd the house adjoining to his own, together with a spacious garden that lies behind these two houses, and has an opening on the rampart. These two buildings being judiciously united, form one grand and elegant palace.

The rooms in this palace are disposed with great propriety, and finishd in an excellent taste. The great hall is of a sea green, borderd with silver, and decorated with noble mirrors, and with chandeliers and flowers of the manufacture of Vincennes, all in the highest perfection. The bedchambers, the library, his highnesses cabinet of prints, the dining hall, and most of the other rooms, are adorn'd
with

with tapestry, and furniture, the most excellent of the modern taste: and altogether form a residence, especially a country residence, worthy of a prince.

The design of the garden, which lies behind this palace, is extremely pleasing. At the end of it there is a noble saloon, that has a door which opens to an elegant bridge, that leads to the rampart: the alleys of this rampart are the rendezvous of all the nightingales of the country round about; and are adorned with statues, vases, flowers, yews and other ornamental trees; and while you are taking the most delightful walk in the world, you arrive imperceptibly, at the prince's other garden; which his highness is enlarging and embellishing in a manner the most charming imaginable.

Thus, Madam, I have given you, in as concise a manner as I was able, a description of the summer palaces of our three highly respectable princes. But the noble entertainments, the rapturous enjoy-

ments which we experience in these enchanting abodes, can I by no means describe. Instead of that constraint, anxiety, dread and disgust, which so frequently dwell under the splendid roofs of princes, here is found nothing but freedom, peace, sincerity and joy. These great princes and their illustrious consorts, lay aside all the pageantry of state, and in its place is seen sincere friendship. They make use of their exalted station, only to shower down on us, continual acts of munificence ; and seem desirous of being superior to others, in nothing but the amiable qualitys of the heart, and the noble endowments of the mind.

The uniform quiet of a country life, is enlivened by regular pleasures ; such as serve rather to recreate than fatigue : walking, riding, music, reading, a moderate dance, play for diversion ; even the pleasures of the theatre ; diversify the enjoyments of our days. Their highnesses amuse themselves, by exercising those uncommon talents

lents they have for dramatic performances, by exhibiting with the ladys and gentlemen of their courts, some of the best French tragedys and comedys. A good table, and the gifts of Bacchus and Pomona, contribute not a little, to invigorate these pleasures; and that perfect union which reigns amongst these three illustrious brothers, and so frequently brings them to the same place of residence, makes all our happiness complete: so that we are unable to determin to which of these delightful palaces, we should give the preference, to that of Oranienburg, of Rheinsberg, or of Ruppin.

Could you but see, my dear lady, all the objects, that I have here described, you would readily confess that it falls far short of the truth; that my coloring is much too weak; and that instead of drawing a flattering picture, I have given, at best, but a tolerable likeness.



L E T T E R XLIII.

To M. von Stúven, at Brunswick.

Treben, May 1, 1755.

AT last, my dear brother, I have left the court and the city of Berlin, on the 31st of March last, which was my birth day, and have fixd my abode at Treben. The night that I took my leave, the prince of Prussia gave a noble feast, for the entertainment of the two queens; to which his roial highness had the goodness to invite me.

During the whole evening my heart was sorely afflicted: I was to leave a place where I had livd for sixteen years together; and to part from those who had for so long a time, been the comfort and happiness of my life. After supper there

was

was a ball ; I danced a few minuets ; but the moment I perceivd that the three princes were together in an adjacent gallery, I went to them to take my leave : never in my life have I been so deeply affected. They embraced me one after the other ; my illustrious pupil held me a long time fast in his arms, and I felt his tears run down my cheek. After this painful separation, it was impossible for me to speak to any one else. I threw myself into my coach ; returnd home, made the last preparations for my journey, and the next morning, b day break, set off.

When I got to Treben, I found the alterations in my house complete : and had the satisfaction to furnish it, and regulate my economy. The house is large, neat, and convenient, but by no means magnificent, for there is neither gilding nor sculpture, to be seen in any part of it : the lower rooms, which are half underground, serve for kitchen, cellar, vaults, and for lodging the cooks, and other domestics.

mestics. I and my wife have on the first floor six handsome rooms, where we commonly live; one of these is my library, for I have brought all my books, which I have collected with some care, from Berlin hither; from this library I have a view of a canal made by an arm of the river, and of all that passes in the village.

The first story is elegant; it consists of two good dining rooms, four bedchambers with closets, a small kitchen for the use of the chambermaids, and a gallery ninety feet long; at the end of which is a large quadrangular hall. All these rooms are sufficiently furnishd, and the gallery is ornamented with pictures that are far from being despicable. From the hall a door opens to a balcony, from whence there is a noble prospect. You see not only the gardens, but a vast tract of country round about, which affords a most delightful landscape; diversifyd every where by woods, lawns, and villages, and by five different

different streams, the waters of which collected together at a mill, form a pleasing cascade : this prospect is bounded by an amphitheatre of distant mountains, on the summit of the last of which is seen the city of Altenburg, with its six lofty towers.

I have been, for some years past, busied in improving my garden ; and as nature has provided me at Treben, as well as at Haselbach, with the most pleasing walks ; in three different woods, on the banks that surround my lakes, and by the borders of the Pleisse, which divides the village of Treben ; it seemed to me most eligible, in the plan of my garden, to consult an agreeable use, rather than ornament, and a labor regularity. The inhabitants of a city find their fruit and kitchen garden complete in the public market ; but we of the country must seek the pleasures of the desert in our own grounds ; and ought to take particular pleasure, when a friend deigns to visit
our

our lonesom retreat, in presenting him with the most excellent productions of the season.

Besides, those gardens that contain nothing but barren trees and hedges, disgust the eye by a tedious uniformity ; during the whole summer, like a handsom wife, they still present the same countenance : whereas the fruit garden shows every day a different face ; the scene is continually altering ; leaves, blossoms, fruits, add incessantly fresh ornaments : these resemble those nymphs of the groves, who are daily changing their forms, and offering new charms. The promises of Flora, and the gifts of Pomona, afford a double pleasure : the owner is thereby profited as well as pleas'd : and when he takes his walks, the objects that present themselves, strike him with reiterated pleasur. All these considerations determin'd me to follow an extensive plan, in designing my garden, and never to lose sight of a pleasing frutier : and tho the greatest part of my

my alleys consist of barren hedges, yet these hedges serve, at the same time, to separate and cover, those parts of the garden that are destined to the use of the kitchen.

By conducting a stream that I found in the neighbourhood, a few paces further, I have made a large basin and a canal, which serve at the same time for reservoirs of fish, and in which I have a number of good crayfish: these waters are surrounded by four and twenty noble cherry trees, whose trunks are as straight as the orange tree, and their heads kept continually in form by the shears. To the right of these basins the garden is terminated by a serpentine walk, that goes from one side to the other. On the left, I found a very high wall, against which I have formed two broad and pleasant terraces: the lower of which is bordered with espaliers, and the upper with a double row of cherry trees, whose tops are cut in the form of the laurel tree.

This.

This terrace affords a very agreeable walk, and leads to the orangery, which is just finish'd, and is not the least ornament of my garden : it serves in the winter as a green house, and in the summer as a large saloon ; to which I have added a kitchen, and a lodge for the gardener. In an uncultivated corner of my garden I have rais'd a theatre of green hedges ; and an amphitheatre with double terraces ; and by these means have turn'd the irregularity into an ornament : now tho I dont promise myself ever to see actors in these parts, and to use it for theatric representations, yet it will serve me to give an evening collation, a concert, or like entertainment.

At the end of the garden there is a small wood, in which are many pleasant arbours : and to the right and left of this entrance, are rows of lime trees. The rest of the garden consists of spacious and pleasant alleys, planted with fruit trees, the best, in their several kinds, that this country can produce.

The

The labor and art that I have employd in improving of Treben, has been every where strongly supported by nature. The whole country round is one continued garden; thro which the river Pleisse flows in a winding stream, and where it divides the village, it is crossd by a stately bridge of stone. A few paces from this bridge, on the side of a small hill, I have a large stone quarry, which affords the most picturesque appearance imaginable: the top of this hill is coverd with beech, oaks, and birch; in the middle are seen the fragments of the rock, disjointed by the laborers; and at the bottom the tardy river flows, in many contortions, as unwilling to quit the delightful spot.

At a small distance from this hill is an extensive wood, that makes as beautiful an appearance as it is possible for the imagination to conceive: this wood grows so thick, that hitherto none but huntsmen, and game, have ever enterd it; but I have now cut a road thro it, wide enough
for

for three carriages: this road affords a delightful ride; and as the whole country is waterd every where by rivulets, whose borders are planted with willows, wild cherry, and other trees, you can easily conceive that there is no want of a variety of pleasant walks.

The village of Treben is large, well built, and very populous. The church is in form of a dome; the inside is white and blue, ornamented with gold; the organ is good; the pulpit and altar, which are in the same taste with those in my chapel, are much admired: this church is servd by two priests, and more than a thousand souls attend the public worship here every Sunday.

What principally enlivens this village, is the residence of the hunt of the prince of Saxe Gotha, the two clergymen, a clerk, the schoolmaster, and the organist: there are also two shopkeepers who are provided with every kind of conveniency; two millers, and a number of substantial
vil.

villagers; all these have families. The Leipzig post passes thro this village. To make the time pass away still more agreeably, I have brought together a dozen of country musicians, who serve me as a sort of choir; and the foundation of this choir has been attended with neither trouble nor expense; for the inhabitants of this country, like the Bohemians, are all born musicians. With the help of a fine harpsicord, which I have received as a present, and several musical instruments, that prince Henry has had the goodness to send me from Berlin, my performers are enabled to play dexterously, some of the best pieces in the operas of Hassen and Green.

Here, my dear brother, you have a short description of Treben. Hasselbach is scarce two miles distant, yet you pass the Pleisse nine times before you come to it. The house here is not so large, nor the garden so pleasant, as that of Treben; there are, however, a handsome hall, and
four

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vil-

villagers; all these have familys. The Leipfig post passes thro this village. To make the time pass away still more agreeably, I have brought together a dozen of country musicians, who serve me as a sort of choir; and the foundation of this choir has been attended with neither trouble nor expense; for the inhabitants of this country, like the Bohemians, are all born musicians. With the help of a fine harpsicord, which I have receivd as a present, and several musical instruments, that prince Henry has had the goodness to send me from Berlin, my performers are enabled to play dexterously, some of the best pieces in the operas of Hassen and Green.

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four

four convenient chambers, beside rooms for the servants: this house is but slightly furnishd, as I shall be there only in the autumn, during the fishing season; for I must inform you, that I have got there two large lakes, and nine ponds of different sizes, which are well stockd with carp and other fish; and these reservoirs being drawn in the winter, produce me no inconsiderable profit; and afford at the same time an uncommon pleasur. More than fifty people are employd in this fishery, and all the country round about comes here to buy; so that I hold a sort of fair; and on this occasion I give an entertainment to my friends, and the ladys of Altenburg, who are drawn hither by the novelty of the sight. The last season, a painter of some eminence drew two views of this fishery, which I have purchased for the singularity of the subject.

On the largest of these lakes I have built a barge, roomy enough to contain
thirty

thirty persons; one smaller for the musicians, and another for the servants, provisions, and every thing that is necessary, when the beauty of the season invites us to pass the evening on the water.

At another opportunity, I shall acquaint you with the dispositions I intend to make in my estates; and by what means I expect to turn them to the best advantage: in what manner I pass my time, and what are my principal pleasures, the greatest of which would be, the enjoyment of your company, which I hope you will not long withhold from me. I have still many improvements to make, for during my stay at Berlin, I could only think of those that were most necessary.

I tenderly embrace my dear sister, and shall never cease to be, Your, &c.

L E T-



L E T T E R XLIV.

To M. von Stúven, at Brunswick.

Treben, August 12, 1755.

CICERO, in praise of studys, says with great reason ; “ That they are
 “ of use in every condition of life ; our
 “ companions in the country, in the
 “ town, at court ; the pleasur of man-
 “ hood, and the solace of age.” I find
 the truth of this by experience ; for plea-
 sant as my situation is, and as much pains
 as I take to improve it, and to fix its
 produce on a solid foundation, yet are all
 these various avocations insufficient, fully
 to employ my thoughts.

To fill that vacancy, therefore, which
 there is in my mind, I incessantly invoke
 the Muses ; without whose aid it would
 be impossible for me to remain contented
 here :

here: and these coy ladys have deign'd to hear my entreatys, and frequently to visit me, for four hours together, in my closet: but they treat me, however, like a peasant, and do not vouchsafe to bestow on me any of those sublime ideas, those rapturous images, those delicate sentiments, and refined subtiltys, with which they store the minds of their favorits who live in the great world, and breathe the court air; but to me they have assign'd a laborious task; where wit is useles, and where metaphor, and allegory, the antithesis, the epigrammatic turn, the paradox; and every decoration of modern style, would be impertinent; a dry and tedious inquiry after truth: in a word, they have enjoind me to write a systematical treatise on the art of government, and to give it the title of, Political Institutes.

You will easily imagin what earnest employment this work affords me, sometimes by tracing in my own mind the true foundation of state maxims; sometimes

times by searching the works of those who have wrote on the different branches of government ; and sometimes by poring over an old register of remarks and reflections, on the various excellencys or defects of those whom I have seen at the helm of different states ; and which has been the work of my whole life. And yet I know not if after all this labor, my performance will be worthy of public regard : my genius, however, constantly whispers in my ear : “ Go on, you cannot “ employ your leisure hours to better purpose.”

When I am not in my closet, I am employd in looking after my workmen, my cattle, my lands, my woods, my garden, or my fishery : or in consulting with my steward ; examining his accounts, and making the necessary dispositions for the futur. At noon we make a regular country meal ; after which I apply again to business ; but when the clock strikes five, all is over ; and we then divert ourselves with

with walking or riding, with play or a concert; and we scarce pass an evening without having one, and frequently a number of friends, at our supper.

By the vicinity of Altenburg, for the distance is not more than three miles, we are intimately acquainted with its principal inhabitants: the road to it lies in a straight line, and is bordered on each side by a stately range of lime trees. Altenburg is full of noble families, the more considerable of which make a splendid appearance. At the assembly there I have seen more than sixty persons of rank: but the family which is the greatest ornament of this city, and which would be a great ornament to any city, is that of the chancellor von R——. Were I to draw the character of this greatly respectable magistrate, this sagacious statesman, this virtuous and amiable citizen; or to describe the graces of his lady, or the charms of his daughters, tho my descriptions were strictly just, you would imagin that

I had copyd after some characters in romance, or at best, that prejudice had seduced me to flattery. Our familys are frequently together, and in their company I find one of the most valuable enjoyments of life.

When the weather is quite fine, we go to Haselbach. There we get into the bark, and while we enjoy the refreshing breeze, or amuse ourselves with play, our helmsman conducts us round the whole lake; and we have frequently the pleasure to see the carp spring up by the side of our bark, and promis a plentiful fishery in the coming autumn.

The excursions that we make in our own lands are attended with peculiar advantages, which afford us no inconsiderable pleasur: we become thereby every day better acquainted with our own estate; observe what is defective, and prepare for the necessary improvements; or indulge our taste in making such alterations as contribute at once to use and beauty.

Every

Every feason is attended by its own labor, and its own pleasur. The country life is by no means so uniform as the inhabitants of a city imagin: even winter has its delights; and this perhaps is the season, when the economy of agriculture is practised to the most advantage: the farmer then opens his granarys, and, by the sale of the produce of his lands, he fills his coffers: the cattle that are then stalld demand a particular attention; the tools of the laborers are to be repaired against the approaching spring; he thrashes out his corn, and enjoys the fruits of his labor. The country gentleman is then more closely attachd to his family; they pass the evening hours in reading, at play, or with music: or seated on his sledge, he flies over the surface of the snow, and makes short and quick journeys to the adjacent city, to his neighbours, or to the remote parts of his own estate: and, wherever he goes, freedom still attends him, and enlivens all his pleasures: and

this is by no means a trifling advantage, which the inhabitants of the country enjoy over those of the city, who are continually subject to a thousand constraints.

I had almost forgot to tell you, my dear brother, that I have met here with a painter of great merit; and as I made some progress in this art in my youth, I have, under the auspices of my Apelles, again applyd myself to the pencil, and have painted some landscapes in oil, which, beside affording me a pleasing amusement, serve to ornament my house.

This country life, I readily confess, can have no charms for the avaricious or enterprising man; nor for the courtier, intoxicated with the favor of a prince, and with the pomp and bustle of the great world; nor for the coquette, who places the chief happiness of life, in being surrounded by a swarm of senseless admirers, who are fast bound in her lovely tresses, and incessantly complain of her cruel charms; nor for an Adonis, who forms
his

L E T T E R XLV. 173

his life after the character of some hero of romance, and is in daily pursuit of a fresh conquest, that he may drag in triumph at his chariot wheels. No, the fools have but a bad time of it, in the country: but he whose mind has the least tincture of philosophy, here triumphs over all the vanities of life; and enjoys that sweet repose, in which the wise man finds such sensible and lasting pleasur.



L E T T E R XLV.

To the Countess of B * *, born
Countess of A * * * ; at Leipfig.

Treben, Dec. 16, 1755.

YOUR excellent heart, Madam, cannot but be greatly affected with the fate of the wretched inhabitants of Lisbon. Surely, never was calamity greater, than

I 3 that

that which has befall this so lately flourishing city ; and never were any people more worthy of commiseration. All accounts from thence are so full of horrors, describe the dreadful agitations of the earth, in such lively colors, that it is scarce possible on reading them to refrain from tears.

Can the strongest imagination conceive a more tremendous scene, than to behold, so vast a quantity of beautiful buildings, and immense riches, buryd in ruins, or destroyed by the flames ; so many thousands of human beings hurld in a moment into misery ; wounded, maimd, crushd, suffocated. Distracted mothers clasping their children to the breast, eager to save them, and instantly swallowd up by the earth. Women in the fulness of sorrows, bringing forth children in the highways. The sick and the wounded in the agonys of death in the public streets. On every side the crys and groans of the dying, and the lamentations of those who having lost all
their

their substance, fly to save their lives. Wherever the eye turns, it is terrifyd by the sight of dead body's. Every step is attended by danger, horror, death, and all that human nature abhors.

In a heart so full of sensibility as yours, Madam, such images as these, must necessarily make the deepest impressions. To have delicate sensations is certainly an excellence, but it is an excellence that is attended with much anxiety: for if the doctrine of M. Maupertuis be true, that the adversities of life are more in number than the prosperities, a heart like yours, in the course of human events, must suffer more pains, than it can enjoy pleasures *. I hold myself therefore, bound in duty to

* Such doctrines as these, which are sometimes blurted by writers of eminence, are capable of doing no small mischief; and the more, as by their nature it is perhaps, as impossible for the reader to prove them to be false, as it is for the writer to prove them to be true: and to what do such doc-

endeavour to turn your sight from so dreadful a scene.

Have recours, Madam, to those consolations which reason as well as religion afford. Among the many deplorable circumstances that have attended this direful catastrophe, there is one however that administers some comfort; which is, to see the destined victims of the inquisition freed from their confinement; the walls of their horrid prison fall down, the monsters that guard them are thrown to the earth, their chains are taken off, they are freed from their terrors, and regain their liberty: so true it is that the greatest misfortunes are still attended by some lucky circumstance.

You take me, Madam, for a greater philosopher than I am, when you desire that I would explain to you the cause of earthquakes, for that lies buryd in the

trins tend? Manifestly to make that querulous creature man, much more so; to increase a gloomy, desponding, unthankful, and therefore, impious disposition.

abyss

abyss of obscurity, and it is not for me to presume to explore it *. The conjectures of the philosophers are perhaps as wide from the truth, as the fictions of the poets: the last, however, entertain by their singularity. One of these would persuade us in good earnest, that it was some mighty giant, one of the Titans perhaps, whom Jupiter buryd under the rocks that are washd by the Tagus, who then heavd himself to take breath. Another tells us, that the earth is one vast animal, which floats in the air, and that we have the honor to be the animalcules which crawl about him; and that this same animal is, in some respects, formd like us poor

* Notwithstanding what is here said, we cannot conceive it possible, for a person of our authors general knowledge, to be ignorant of what is universally allowd to be the common cause of earthquakes: we are much more inclined to think, that he was too polite, when writing to a lady, to enter into a dry, philosophic disquisition; and the facetious turn he gives to the ladys inquiry, evidently justifys this opinion.

mortals, and sometimes subject to convulsive disorders.

Should you ask the protestant poets, they would tell you that Belzebub was the cause ; who sought to open a vulcano in the middle of Lisbon, to overthrow that court which is so unjustly calld the Holy Inquisition, and to take its judges into his own territorys, and there reward them for tyrannising over the consciences of mankind. I, who acknowledge my ignorance in these matters, am inclined to take the midway betwixt these philosophers and poets ; but still believe that Satan, who is the author of all evil, was at the bottom of this ; and that it was he who was the cause of all the calamitys the poor Portuguese have suffered. In fact, you will find that it was on a holy festival that this commotion which made our whole hemisphere tremble, happened : for these earthquakes are contagious ; the public papers bring accounts of them from all parts ; scarce a spot in Europe, how small soever, that does not complain

complain of terrible agitations : and yet I do assure you very seriously, Madam, that in Altenburg we had not the least symptom of this general disorder ; not a single person amongst us, was known to take an involuntary jump. If therefore you do not think yourself perfectly secure in your palace at Leipfig, I conjure you, Madam, to take refuge in my hut at Treben.

There are in your university three professors for whom I have the highest esteem, and those are, Messieurs Gottsched, Gellert, and Christ. Try to make them of your party. Of Madam Gottsched I shall say nothing, as I persuade myself you can scarce travel without her : she is the lady, whom, after yourself, of all the world, I honor and admire the most : to all the charms of your sex, she joins that superior strength of mind, which is ascribed, I know not if by reproach or flattery, to ours : her writings, especially her poetry, afford me infinit pleasure.

Let all these swans of our Pleisse, come under your protection to the floor of Treben. They will find the air and the water still the same; they will enjoy the same river that flows by Leipsig, and has there the virtues of Hippocrene; which it still preserves till it passes under my bridge, where it grows somewhat weaker; so that I fear to mix it with my wine, lest it should lower my poetic vein.

One of my parsons, who by virtue of his office is my prophet, and is deeply skilld in distinguishing in the Kalendar the lucky from the unlucky days; assures me, that it is not impossible, but that about Christmas, there may be another earthquake at Lisbon; therefore, Madam, for your own safety, and to my great joy, come and pass that time with us. My wife tells me, that she can make six good beds, for her learned visitors. If the frost should be fixd, you can come in three hours to Treben, for the road will be as smooth as a mirror; and Messieurs the professors cannot attend
you,

you, at any other time. We have every day, variety of company from Altenburg, who return in the evening by the light of torches.

They tell me, Madam, that you amuse yourself with drawing and painting; that you are forming a very valuable cabinet of medals and curiosities: and that you have made an amazing progress in every branch of polite literature. When to those pleasing gifts which you enjoy from nature, you add so many of the accomplishments of art, what man shall presume to rival you? Of all these subjects, and of a thousand others, I long to talk with you; but I will not say a word of them here, that I may the sooner have the pleasure of seeing you; beside, my letter is already too long, and I burn with impatience to assure you in person, of that perfect esteem with which I am,

Madam, your, &c.

L E T-

 L E T T E R XLVI.

To M. Pajon, Minister of the Gospel, and Preacher at the French Church at Leipfig.

Treben, September 20, 1756.

I HAVE just met with a very uncommon incident, of which I cannot forbear to acquaint you. We have had, for some time past, rumors of wars, as well from the Prussian army, as in the dominions of the empress, queen of Hungary; and I have remarkd by the march of several regiments that were garifond in this country, thro the lands of my sister-in-law, and in other parts, that the Saxon troops were in motion. By my situation in life I am enabled to look on the quarrels of kings, and the commotions of the world, with

with great indifference : so that I scarce ever read the Gazette with attention ; and to say the truth, the Gazette scarce ever contains any thing worthy of attention. My days, therefore, have hitherto passd peacefully and unconcerndly.

On Saturdày last, I took a walk to my fishery at Haselbach, in company with a friend who came to visit me, and my secretary. About seven in the evening we found ourselves at the end of the great lake, which is near to Regis, a small town in the electōrate of Saxony ; when our ears were at once struck, as with thunder, by the roaring of a drum, that beat three times to arms ; and immediately after we heard the sound of the Prussian retreat. I confess to you, Sir, that I was greatly astonishd ; and we all three remaind, for some time, motionless. The reflection that there was no Saxon garison in this town, increasd our surprize, and we could not conceive it possible, for the Prussian troops to have transported themselves into the middle of Saxony. My

- My companions determind to go to Regis, that they might examin the matter more nearly, and I returnd very leifurely to Hafelbach. It was three hours before they came back, and then full of astonishment. In short, when they came to the gates of the town, they found two Prufian centinels, by whom they were taken prifoners, and conducted to the commander of the regiment of infantry that was quarterd in the town; who by good fortune happend to be general Kleift, with whom I had the honor to be intimately acquainted at Magdeburg, and who is in fact, one of my very good friends. He was furprifed when he heard that I was fo near him; fet the two prifoners immediately at liberty; and sent me a handfom prefent of venifon, with his compliments, expreffing great concern that he could not fee me, but that he was totally engaged in preparing for his march the next morning by day break. I immediately returnd him my compliments,
and

and a good part of the best wine I had in my cellar.

From that day the Altenburg country has swarmed with Prussian troops : but they have been like a flood that passes without any bad consequence. His illustrious highness prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, at the head of a column, lay one night at Borna, which is but a short distance from hence ; of which I was then ignorant, or should have done myself the honor to have waited on his highness. It is said that these military gentry are going against Dresden ; but it seems uncertain whether they will enter Saxony or Bohemia. God grant that they may go far from hence ! for the sound of war is so hateful to my ears, that I would fly to the utmost parts of the earth to avoid it.

I entreat you, my dear pastor, to let me know what passes at Leipzig ; for it is not likely that you can be quite free from this general commotion. I wish you, very
hear-

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heartily, continual health, and desire at all times to be rememberd in your holy supplications.



L E T T E R XLVII.

To M. Pajon, at Leipfig.

Treben, May 4, 1756.

I Send you these few lines, to let you know that I am still alive. I have been the greatest part of this winter in Chemnitz, where his roial highness prince Ferdinand, had quarterd his regiment. There I pafsd my time very agreeably, with good company of both sexes, a good table, good wine, concerts, assemblys; but above all, a most gracious prince, who applys with the greatest assiduity to business, is continually loading us with his favors, and contributing by all possible means to our diversions. I had, at that town,

town, the pleasur of seeing the noble cabinet of his excellency general Wilster, which contains the most complete collection of shells, petrifications, marbles, pebbles, and precious stones, of any in Europe.

His roial highness afterwards sent for me to Lauterbach; and from thence I went with the column under the command of prince Morris of Anhalt, to Obornplanitz, which lies on the borders of Bohemia; and met neither Pandure, nor any other enemy by the way. In the interims of these journeys I have contracted a very intimate friendship with lieutenant general Pennavaire, commander of the carabineers; and M. Schmettau, colonel of that regiment. They have pasd the winter in my neighbourhood, and we have mutually contributed every thing possible, to each others entertainment.

All these sons of Mars have now left this country, and are gone to Bohemia, where the campaign is opend. O! may
this

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this war be still far distant from our borders! I cease not day and night to cry out; "Da pacem, Domine! in diebus nostris!" Nor shall ever cease to be, with the most earnest affection,

Your, &c.



L E T T E R XLVIII.

To my Brother.

Treben, Sept. 10, 1757.

THE most cruel necessity, my dearest brother, obliges me to leave Treben, and to fly for refuge, into the arms of my family, at Hamburg. For that is almost the only place in Germany, where the fiend of war does not extend his wrath; where the unfortunate fugitive can yet find an asylum. I think to leave this place on the 13th of this month; and shall make
short

short stages, as I must take with me a wife and a tender infant. I beg that you will provide me a dwelling that is decent, but by no means magnificent. As my sudden resolve might possibly surprise you, were I not to acquaint you with the motives that induced me to it, I shall here give you, my dear brother, a short, but just account, of that series of misfortunes, which has attended me thro the course of this whole year.

It was on the day of Epiphany that my troubles began. I was entertaining a few friends and myself with a little concert in my hall, when on a sudden I heard a pistol go off, and the noise of an alarm in the street. I immediately ran out and found my whole village filld with Prussian carabineers, and in the public house a dozen officers who had seized on five of my peasants for recruits. I was sensibly touchd with this accident; but there was no remedy: it was to no purpose to expostulate with force of arms. However, I sent my
secretary,

secretary, early next morning, to general Pennavaire, with heavy complaints. That worthy old officer gave me, it is true, all possible relief, by immediately setting my tenants at liberty, who were almost dead with cold; for that night the frost was so intense, that it froze the stones in the street. I had likewise the satisfaction by this accident, to become acquainted with many worthy officers of this regiment, beside colonel Schmettau. But the misfortune, however, was not easily repaired; for the fright and vexation had seized me so strongly, that I did not recover my health for a long time after.

In the month of March, when by the first thaw, the ice that covered the river broke, my miller came running out of breath, and intreated me to come instantly to his assistance; for that the wear which drives my mill that is on the Pleisse, was in great danger. I ran immediately thither, and was followed by all my tenants, armed with long poles and iron hooks, to
 attack

attack the ice : but alas ! it was not for human power to contend with the violence of the stream. I saw mountains of ice come rushing down, like a mighty torrent, with such irresistible force, as in less than a minute drove the wear before my eyes, like a wisp of straw ; notwithstanding the united efforts of more than a hundred men, who stood on the borders of the river, using every possible method to resist its fury. It cost me a very considerable sum, to repair the damages of this unlucky hour.

After the battle of Collin in Bohemia, we were incessantly harassed by stragling soldiers, and detachd corps, whose boisterous behaviour was altogether insupportable ; not a day passed without some fresh insult. At the same time my wife nearly approachd the hour of parturition ; and to those terrors which she continually sufferd, I ascribe the misfortune of her bringing a dead child into the world. I leave you to imagin how much this unfortunate event added to our distress.

Eight

Eight days after this fatal birth, at five in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out, in the village of Treben; and in the space of four hours, thirty-three buildings, as well houses as barns and stables, were destroyed, notwithstanding the engines were at hand, and all possible diligence exerted, to subdue the violence of the flames. It added greatly to this misfortune, that it happend at the end of harvest, when all the barns were filld with corn. The fire broke into the house that was directly opposite to the windows of the chamber where my wife lay, and the horror of the sight drove her to the brink of distraction. And what still greatly augmented this misfortune was, that one of our preachers, M. Winkler, a very learned and amiable man, and in whose conversation I found one of the greatest comforts of life; who, while he was assisting me, in removing my library, at the hazard of losing his own, was struck speechless by terror, sunk to the ground, and died in the arms of my servant.

Imagin

Imagin to yourself what misery I suffered at that moment ; my whole village in flames, my wife in danger and distress, my pastor and my friend dead before my eyes, my child in agonys, screaming in the arms of its nurse, all my tenants running here and there, wild with terror and despair for the loss of all their substance, the crys and groans of those who came to our assistance, the anxiety that I was in to save my own house, and the endeavours that I was forced to exert to repel the fury of the flames : when I reflect on this dreadful scene, I still wonder that I did not sink under the weight of such a load of distress.

It was the strength alone, of my house, and my barns and stables, which are all of hewn stone, that resisted the violence of the flames. God was graciously pleas'd to preserve these buildings, as well as the mills, the church, the parsonage houses, the schools, and all the buildings that belong to the church, from the rage of this

conflagration. It is impossible for you to conceive, my dear brother, in how deplorable a situation, the poor country people were the next day; we were obliged to provide them, even with food and clothing.

A few days after, before we were well recovered from the horror of this dreadful scene, a new misfortune came upon us. The whole country of Altenburg was at once overrun by a numerous body of Husars, Croats, and other light troops, of her majesty the empress queen, under the command of general Laudon. It seemd as if these troops, wherever they came, multiplyd immediately: they were seen at once in every corner of the country; not a village was free from them: at Treben, the hufar regiment of Spleni, and a detachment of the regiment of Gichini, took up their quarters among the ruins of the fire. The officers were all impatient for a refreshment. I was then at Haselbach, but sent my cook immediately, to prepare them a supper, with which they were highly

ly pleas'd, and conceivd an opinion of me not a little to my advantage.

I slept that night at Haselbach, and truly to my great good fortune: for the same evening his majesty the king of Prussia, and his highness prince Henry, fix'd their head quarters at Rosa, a small town about six miles distant; and hearing that I was so near, were desirous of seeing me: the prince therefore sent two peasants with a billet, that was wrote with a pencil, and open: had this paper fallen into the hands of the Austrian officers, all had been lost; but by uncommon good fortune, the messenger pass'd unnoticed, thro the midst of the piquets, and at one in the morning, knock'd hard at my gate, crying out, that he came from the king of Prussia. I was in my first sleep, and was greatly surpris'd at the noise, not being able to conceive the cause: but when I red the billet, I was immediately sensible of the danger I should run, by sending an answer in writing; I therefore threw it directly into the fire,

and said to the messenger: "That great
 "as my desire was, to wait on his majesty
 "and his roial highness, yet it was impos-
 "sible for me at that time; for that I was
 "surrounded by two thousand imperial
 "husars, who would not suffer me to go
 "a step from my house." And by this
 caution I avoided all futur danger.

Early the next morning I went to Tre-
 ben, and waited on colonel C——, who
 had the command of this detachment, and
 whom I found to be a very amiable gen-
 tleman; a person of noble appearance,
 and a most humane and polite officer: his
 complaisance had prevented him from fix-
 ing his quarters in the mansion house,
 and he contented himself with a small
 chamber in the chief rangers lodge. He
 receivd me in the most friendly manner,
 and we soon became intimate. I invited
 him and all his officers, to dine with me
 the same day. This dinner provd highly
 agreeable, and was attended with many
 mutual civilitys; the chaplain of this
 6 regiment

regiment, who is a very pleasant companion, entertained us highly, especially my little boy, who was delighted with his caresses; and by these means we were treated by all, even the lowest hufar, with civility.

During colonel C——'s stay at Treben, with whom I contracted a real friendship, he obliged all his troops to observe strict discipline; but as they were close pressed by the Prussian hufars of the Zeckelischen regiment, they were obliged to retire behind Altenburg. The retreat of these troops was quite sudden; but before they went, the colonel said to me; "Sir, I have
 " done all that was in my power to protect
 " you; another may come who may not
 " be so well disposed; you run great
 " risk of being suspected by both partys:
 " I conjure you therefore, to leave this
 " country immediately, and seek some
 " place of safety." I thankd him very heartily for his advice, and instantly determined to follow it.

K 3

I know

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I know of no place more safe than my native country; you will see me therefore in a few days in Hamburg, where I hope for the pleasure of embracing you, my dear brother, and presenting you my wife, and my son; and of talking more particularly with you, of all my past misfortunes; in the mean time, farewell *.

* This letter affords a striking contrast to the 43d and 44th, and shows the weakness of placing our happiness on any of the external enjoyments of this life, even on those which are by their nature, the most innocent, the most laudable, and permanent, of all others.

L E T.



L E T T E R XLIX.

To the Lady Chancellor von R***;
at Altenburg.

Hamburg, Oct. 4, 1757.

IT was not possible, Madam, to make a hasty journey with a wife and a child; and beside, we were obliged to make a large circuit to avoid the different troops, who made the road we were to travel very insecure. We passd thro Leipfig, Wittenberg, Brandenburg, Ruppın, Rheinsberg, Lenzen, and Boitzenburg. At Lenzen we were near being surpris'd by the French, who enterd the town a few hours after we left it. At last, after a journey of ten days, our guardian angel brought us safe to Hamburg. Here I already find that I breath more freely; for here reign fair peace and

K 4

pleasure;

pleasure ; two of the greatest blessings that Providence has bestowd on poor mortal man : I am now, more than ever, sensible of their worth, as he that is just recoverd from a fit of painful disease, finds more sensibly the value of health.

A life of ease and pleasure has made me forget a number of singularitys, that are to be met with in the manners and customs of a republic. Every advantage in life is attended with some inconvenience. The behaviour and conversation of a citizen, who is busyd with his traffic, must necessarily be very different from those of a courtier, who is practisd in the refined policy that surrounds a throne : but perhaps the intrinsic worth, the integrity and sincerity of the former, may outweigh that pomp and splendor, those painted charms which the latter throws into the ballance : tho it must be confesd that the different manners of these different ranks of men, afford pleasures that are by no means equal ; and certainly the superior pleasures of
conver-

conversation, constitute a very essential part of the happiness of life.

Nothing is more surprising than to see how much the different ranks of men despise each other, and on what whimsical opinions this contempt is founded. The usurer will tell you that it is better to lend on pledges than to lend at all. The tradesman who lays his hand on his iron chest, thinks that he has much better reason to entertain a good opinion of himself and his profession, than the gentleman, who founds his mighty importance on a scroll of parchment.

The man of rank, who boasts of the merit of his ancestors, imagines himself to be formed of very different materials from the cit; and regards him as a middle being, betwixt the gentleman and the mere animal; and as far as he can, treats him accordingly. The man of traffic, on the contrary, from the midst of his wealthy merchandise, casts a contemptuous glance on the necessitous gentleman, who fears to

debase his nobility by an honourable commerce, and is compell'd to be the slave of a prince, and to act the part that he commands: to sell his blood to purchase the necessaries of life; or in the drudgery of a cabinet, to prostitute his ability, his integrity, and peace of mind, to the caprice of his master. Now if these reflections be just, they are both beggars, and the importance they respectively assume, exists no where but in their imaginations: it may be said of the one as well as the other; "All is vanity, for it is vanity that blindeth the eyes." Every active condition in life, notwithstanding; all servitude, all honest traffic, is useful to society, and consequently respectable: it is idleness alone that makes the wretch.

There is, however, a rank of men, who are truly despicable, and of whom there are here many examples: and such are they, who are borne on the wings of Mercury to the pinnacle of the temple of Fortune; and who, without taste, spirit, or knowledge

knowledge of the great world, assume the importance, and imitate the magnificence of those who are placed in the highest employments of the state; but ignorant of the arts of life, with the best meaning in the world, they are continually committing the grossest absurditys: like those heavy dancers on the stage, who use every possible mean to excite the attention of the public, to their own prejudice. There is a kind of rust that constantly adheres to the best polishd instruments in a republic, to which, however, a wise man pays little regard; it is a rust moreover, that is frequently worn off by much use.

I should rejoice to see you here, Madam, for it would afford me great pleasur, to join with you, in remarking on the variety of subjects that this city presents; and you would have the fatisfaction of enjoying in Hamburg, all that nature can produce, and the sea can convey.

I have the honor to be, Madam, your, &c.



L E T T E R L.

To the Lady Chancellor von R * * *.

Hamburg, July 4, 1758.

Y E S, Madam, it is but too true, that the prince of Prussia is no more; and if I could have died of grief, his death would certainly have markd the period of my life: never was any affliction more justly founded: admiration, reverence, gratitude, have jointly open'd in my heart a source of tears, that time will never totally exhaust. Had you known this prince, Madam, you would have freely mixd your tears with mine.

In the orations that have been pronounced on this occasion, in every church of Berlin, all the powers of eloquence have been exhausted, in commemorating one of the greatest men, and the most amiable

amiable princes, with which the Divine Providence ever blest mankind. Those remarkable words of Moses, to the people of Israel, on his going up to mount Horéb, were used on this occasion: "I leave this earth, but God will be at all times with you." But as these orations may not come to your hands, and as few persons have known this incomparable prince so well as myself, permit me, Madam, to attempt a description of his virtues; that my hand may likewise strew a few flowers on his grave, and that this letter may be consecrated to his precious memory. Flattery can here have no place, for the desire to please him, whom I wish to celebrate, can no longer exist: the love of truth alone shall direct my pen, every other desire is bury'd with my hero in the grave.

Augustus William, the third son of Frederick William, and of Sophia Dorothy, a princess of Great Britain, was born at Berlin, on the 9th of August, 1722. As the first
born

born son of the late king died almost in the cradle, that great prince who now so gloriously wields the Prussian sceptre, was, by virtue of his birth, exalted to the rank of prince roial; and Augustus William made a near advance to the throne.

Tho this prince were in a manner born in purple, yet the dignity of his birth did not in the least debase the goodness of his heart. The severe manners of the king his father, drove from the roial family, and from the court, that deceitful pomp which dazzles the eye, and debauches the mind of a young prince; nor was sneaking Flattery, on his bended knees, permitted to approach the children of this monarch, and to infect them with his insidious poison. Perhaps that king, devoted to war, in the education of his children, carryd these principles, excellent in themselves, too far. Perhaps prince William never enjoyd the invaluable blessing of a wise preceptor. It may be, that those military exercises which he had constantly
before

before his eyes made too strong an impression on his mind; and perhaps he was taught to contemn those other valuable endowments, without which the most prosperous hero can never become a great man.

It was said of Leibnitz, that he was capable of attaining whatever he was capable of desiring; but prince William enjoyd that from his birth, which in Leibnitz was the fruit of time and labor: with his first breath he drew in the seeds of all virtues; but these never sprung up till after the death of the late king. Then this prince saw, a beloved brother, a philosophic hero, a favorit of the muses, and a monarch worthy to be adored by his subjects, fill the throne: and this great example was sufficient to excite the noblest emulations in his mind.

The ruling passion of this prince was a desire of improvement; and a lively imagination, a solid judgment, and a memory that was a stranger to fatigue; a chearful and even pleasant disposition, and an inclination ever
ready

ready to embrace that which was right, were the characteristics of his head and of his heart. With such happy abilities it was no wonder that he soon attained the summit of human excellence. In a few years he acquired that universal knowledge, which is necessary for every station in life. No kind of useful science could escape his research; and that knowledge which holy writ ascribes to Solomon, might justly be ascribed to him; for he knew all things, "from the cedar to the hyssop that groweth upon the wall."

In the hours of amusement he practised the polite arts, when Apelles, as well as Orpheus, guided his hand: his favorite instrument was the base viol. He drew the designs for his palaces and gardens, with his own hand. He loved the theatre, and performed some of the most difficult characters, with an ease and propriety, which charmed every one that beheld him.

Prince William was tall of stature, and there was a noble and graceful air that accom-

accompanyd all his actions. His features were regular and pleasing, and strongly expressd the excellent qualitys of his heart; for to comprise a panegyric in one word, he had a heart full of sensibility. His eyes were piercing and captivating; but he was ever ready to sacrifice love to friendship; for never was a prince, never was a man more faithful to those, whom from an intimate acquaintance, and a well grounded esteem, he honord with the title of his friends: his affection for these neither absence nor time could alter: and were I not fearful that by praising this prince, I might be suspected of a desire to reflect reputation on myself, I would say, that to the end of his life, he honord me with a series of most sensible, witty and affectionate letters.

This prince was constantly noble, frequently liberal, but never profuse. His furniture, his liverys, his table, his private pleasures and public entertainments, were ever consentaneous to the sublime dignity of his nature. The

The veins of prince William were filld with the heroic blood of his ancestors. Valour was natural to him; but it was constantly conducted by prudence. He lov'd war, and cultivated the knowledge of it as a science. In time of peace he held with his brother prince Henry, a military correspondence: these two heros supposed a rupture betwixt Prussia and some neighbouring power: each placed himself at the head of one of the adverse partys; and by determining on the dispositions that were proper to be made, exercis'd their genius, their knowledge, and application. These princes wrote each other every week two letters, which contain'd the alterations they had thought proper to make; together with the plans of marches, encampments, battles, sieges, and other military operations; which, for the example of futur generals, were worthy to be wrote in letters of gold.

A short time before the princes marriage, the king, who saw himself without children,

children, conferrd on him the title of prince of Prussia; and in fact he seemd born to reign; for he had a much stronger capacity to command, than disposition to obey. He revered his ancestors, and had an affectionate regard for his brothers and sisters. His children he admonishd in private; but a kind of false shame, prevented him from showing a good part of that tender affection which he bore them. His zeal for the honor of the crown of Prussia, and his love for the people, were without bounds. If I should dare to mix a shade among so many glowing colors, I would say, that this prince had too great a regard for the nobleman and the officer, and too little for those who had real merit, but were not intitled to either of these distinctions.

At the first address, prince William was rather cool; but in his intimate conversation he was refined, spirited, and even jocular. I here recollect what the brightest genius, the soundest critic, and the most celebrated of the French poets, has repeatedly said to me: "Never have I known
" any

“any man make more solid reflections,
“or propose more shrewd questions,
“than the prince of Prussia.” But for
testimony still far superior, I refer you,
Madam, to the Dedication of the Me-
moirs of the House of Brandenburg.
Frederic there places on the brows of
his illustrious brother, an immortal
crown; the ornaments of which are not
the work of fancy, but representations
of the beautiful productions of nature.
After these testimonys, Madam, so glo-
rious for the honor of the prince, and
so expressive of the excellent heart of our
sovereign, I shall not presume to add
the least article; all that I can conceive
is containd in that striking expression of
our monarch: “How happy am I, my dear
“brother, to find so many virtues, in the
“nearest and most dear of all relations?”

I conclude, therefore, with assuring you,
Madam, of that profound respect with
which I have the honor to be, &c.

P. S. I had forgot to tell you, Madam,
that this most worthy prince about three
weeks

weeks before his death, had sent me an invitation to pass some time with him at Oranienburg: I was entirely ignorant of his illness, and in the midst of a numerous company at Yersbeck, when a servant of the house where I was, pronounced the dreadful tidings of the loss of my illustrious patron, by crying out suddenly; "O! the prince of Prussia is dead!" At that moment all the horrors of death came upon me; and even at this time I am scarce recovered from the consternation; but from the grief which this event has caused, never shall I be free.



L E T T E R L I.

To M. von Stüven, at Brunswick.

Hamburg, Decemb. 20, 1759:

Notwithstanding that opposition, which the love of tranquillity, so natural to my disposition, has constantly urged, I
have

have at last submitted the merit of my Political Institutes, to be decided by the public voice. Mr. Goffe, the younger, bookseller to the prince of Orange, one of the most candid and ingenious men I ever knew, has spared neither pain nor cost, to produce in a short time, an elegant and correct impression. Tho I have wrote twenty times, to intreat him not to put me to the torture of the press: for to a man of sensibility the day of publication is a day of terrors; his naked soul seems to be exposed to the eyes of all the world; when the most insignificant reader assumes the authority of a dictator, inquires into all his faults, and pronounces judgment against him.

So long as an author is in possession of his manuscript, he finds no want of confidence; but how timorous, how abashed, when the day arrives that is to expose him to the censure of all mankind. For my own part, I have more than common reason for concern; as I have not only the
difficultys

difficultys of the subject, but even of the language in which I write, to contend with. Diffident of my own ability, I place no small dependance on the indulgence of my readers. The motives that have induced me to undertake this work, and the novelty and utility of the subject, will at least, produce me a favorable attention from the sensible and ingenuous part of mankind; and it is these alone that I wish to please; for those who make a trade of criticism, who seek a subsistence by gleaning the faults of others, I have a just contempt.

In these expectations I have the satisfaction to find, that I did not deceive myself; for not only the journalists and other periodical writers have mentiond my Institutes with commendation; but the greatest part of those sovereign princes to whom I have presented copys of this book, have rememberd, amidst the splendor of their courts, a man, who for three years together has been buryd in a corner of the world;

world; and have honord me with the most flattering answers: of these I have made a small collection, that perhaps my posterity may not regard with indifference. The letters of these princes have been accompanyd with a munificence that affords the strongest proof of their approbation: and as it has pleasd the Divine Providence to subject me to the calamitys of the last war, and to many other misfortunes, so the liberalitys of these princes, have placed me in such a situation, that I regard them, as marks of the dignity of sentiment in the princes of the eighteenth century; and as precious monuments of their esteem for the work of him, whose study it has been to enlarge the sphere of useful science.

I am perswaded, my dear brother, that you will not be displeasd to read some of those letters which I have wrote on this occasion, and the noble and benign answers, that I have receivd: I therefore here send you copys of them. I flatter myself

self that you receivd favorably what I lately sent under a blank cover, as I was then so fully employd, that it was impossible for me to write to you. Give me your opinion, I entreat you, of all these matters, with that freedom and sincerity, which becomes my friend and my brother, Favor me soon with an answer; and rest assured of that perfect esteem, with which I am,

Your, &c.



L E T T E R LII.

To his Majesty the King of Poland,
and Duke of Lorrain and Bar.

Sire,

A Prince who has been calld, by the free voice of a people, to fill a throne; whose blood has been held so pre-

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cious

cious by one of the first nations of Europe, that they have sought to mix it with that of the house of Bourbon, from whence might spring their futur monarchs: a prince, who after accomplishing a most glorious and memorable period in history, enjoys, in the fulness of years, all the blessings that Providence can bestow; who rules his people with the sceptre of a Titus; supports learning, encourages ability and industry, and prepares for posterity the fairest monuments of a wise and happy reign: such a monarch cannot but be the powerful protector of science, and the rightful judge of a work which treats of the great art of government.

Urgd by these truths, I have presumed, from my lonesom retreat, to lay these Political Institutes; the first draught of which was made for the instruction of a young prince committed to my care, and which I have since reduced to a systematic form for public use; at your majestys feet. I should rejoice greatly if the offer I here make,

make, were worthy of your majestys acceptance; but a soul of such exalted dignity, as your majestys, is ever ready, in imitation of the Divine Goodness, graciously to accept of the meanest of well meant sacrifices.

The endeavours that I have exerted to clear the political science from the mischievous errors of Machiavel, and to place it on a solid foundation: the equity and utility of these principles, can alone excuse the presumption, in offering to your majesty, this small tribute of my admiration and profound respect.

I add the most fervent wishes for a long continuance of your precious days; and esteem it the greatest of honors to be, with the most devoted obedience,

Sire, &c.

 L E T T E R L I I I .

From his Majesty, Stanislaus King
of Poland.

Luneville, Apr. 17, 1760.

I Receivd your work with great pleasur, as I have the highest opinion of your ability, and of the laudable motives that induced you to undertake it. I doubt not, but in what you have wrote on politics, you have collected, as in a focus, every thing that can render government more secure to the prince, and less burthensom to the people: and that by strongly contending with, and exposing, that love of false fame, which serves only to enslave and to destroy, you have wisely promoted the peace of mankind; for such I see by your letter, is the design of your book; which I receivd only two days since. I propose to read it thro very shortly,

ly, and the strong propensity I find to it, serves me as a kind of prophecy, of the benefit I shall receive from it. I am sincerely,

Sir, your affectionate friend,
Stanislaus, King.



L E T T E R L I V .

From his serene Highness, the Elector
of Cologn.

I Am extremely sensible, Sir, of the respect you have shown me, by sending me your work, and of all those obliging expressions which are containd in the letter that accompanyd it. You may rest assur'd that I wish for nothing so much, as an opportunity of giving you proofs of that particular esteem, with which I am,

Bonn, Mar. 25,
1760. Sir, your affectionate Friend,
Clement Augustus, Elector.



L E T T E R L V.

From his serene Highness, the Elector
of Bavaria.

Munchen, March 15, 1760.

IT is some time since I receivd, M. Baron, the copy of your Political Institutes, together with your letter of the 4th of October last : both of which are highly agreeable to me ; and I acknowledge my obligation to you, for making me acquainted with a work, that is at once learned and important : and the study of which must be extremely useful. From what I have already seen of it, I conceive a very high opinion of its author, and shall be far from thinking the time lost, which I shall hereafter employ in the study of it. I here send a small token of my acknowledg-
ment,

L E T T E R LVI. 223

ment, and rest assured, M. Baron, of that real esteem which I entertain for you.

Max. Jos. Elector.



L E T T E R LVI.

From his serene Highness, the Elector
Palatine.

Manheim, June 7, 1760.

I Am much obliged to you, M. Baron, for the present you have made me of your Political Institutes; which is a work that I shall always greatly esteem, as a production of your genius, that is highly worthy of the approbation of mankind, for whose use it is intended.

I am with great esteem, M. Baron,
Your affectionate friend.

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L E T T E R LVII.

From M. Voltaire.

I Believe, Sir, that your letter has made me well, for pleasur is an universal remedy; and it gives me a very sensible pleasur to find that you still remember me. I think of nothing more than how to shorten the time, and to end my days pleasantly; in that serious work, however, which you have publishd, I find myself strongly interested, and am impatient to become acquainted with it. Teach princes to do justice; it will be a constant consolation to those who are liable to suffer by their pride, their caprice, their injustice, or their cruelty. Mankind love to hear of the laws of nations: they are like the sick, to whom men talk of a panacea. Have you not said something about liberty? I imagin you enjoy it to your wish at Hamburg.

Hamburg. For my own part, I enjoy it effectually ; and have been for these six years past, completely inebriated with the enjoyment ; seeing that I am in possession of free lands on the borders of France, and find myself in the midst of a perfect independency. Dont you remember the time when it was not permitted you to go to your own estate ? That was totally against the laws of nations.

I wish your Germany peace ; but am not endowd with such deep foresight, as to point out the time when all these horrors shall cease. The art of penetrating into futurity is lost with the wise president : I embrace you with my whole heart, and without any ceremony, for that ought to have no place among philosophers. It is sufficient for them, to put at the bottom of their letters, the date, and the first letter of their names, the 20th June. V

Your letter of the month of February, was not brought me by those who are expeditious in executing the commissions you give them.



L E T T E R LVIII.

From Count Schouwalow.

Sir,

Peterburg, Feb. 27, 1761.

I Have never been so agreeably surprised, as at the receipt of the letter, with which you have honored me. I embrace the first opportunity of making you my acknowledgments, for a work, that affords as much instruction to others, as it does honor to yourself. I had before read it over, Sir, with the highest esteem of your abilities, and with all that attention which is necessary to reap a real advantage from it: and have again read it on receiving the copy you sent me; which I shall ever preserve as a valuable token of your regard.

I think I shall do my country a real service, by translating your Institutes into our language. I shall have the satisfaction in a short time of receiving the first volume from the press; and it will give me

L E T T E R LIX. 227

me great pleasure to send you a copy of it. Permit me, Sir, to have the pleasure of writing to you, and honor me with your commands. I shall think myself happy when you shall please to give me some opportunity of showing that singular esteem I entertain for your merit, and that devotion with which I am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

J. Schouwallow.



L E T T E R LIX.

(A Fragment.)

To M. von M * * at B * *.

Hamburg, June 6, 1760.

NO, Sir, I have not the honor to be a member of all those societies you mention. To that of Berlin I have belonged since the time of its restitution: and the Royal Society of Königsberg in Prussia, and of Greifswalde in Swedish

L 6

Pomerania,

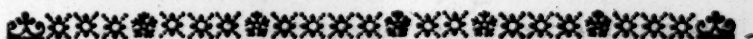
Pomerania, have done me the honor some years since, to elect me a foreign member. I have no other academic title ; and I entreat you moreover, in the dedication of the work which you propose to address to me, that you would totally omit all those titles which I have born at the court of Berlin. Insert only, that simple, elegant motto, which you will find at the bottom of my medal in copper.

I have no desire to parade with lofty titles ; my wish would be, by some real service, to do honor to a title which I might receive from a great monarch, whose gifts are in themselves commendations. When I was at Berlin, I had a complete half dozen of employments, the mere titles of which filld the covers of those letters, which my country tenants, friends to ostentation, sent me. Whenever my labors can be of use to my sovereign, I shall think it an honor to bear the title of any service, to which he shall graciously please to appoint me. For the rest, I look on a title as the ticket to a money bag ;

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bag; and you know, Sir, much too well, that the ticket to an empty bag, is of very little signification.

I have the honor to be, &c.



L E T T E R LX.

To Count * * *, at Copenhagen.

Hamburg, Dec. 20, 1760.

My worthy Friend,

IF men were formd like tigers; were it necessary for their private subsistence, or for the good of the community that they should ruin and destroy each other; that they should follow the trade of murder; then should I esteem war as an useful profession, and a hero as a rational being. But as the Divine Providence has amply provided the whole human race, with the necessarys of life; and as reason, the laws of nations, and the particular constitutions of every state, allots to each individual, his portion of these

these provisions; so that no man can, strictly speaking, be said to die for want: and as the abundance of the necessaries of life depends on the intercourse of mankind, which depends on peace; it seems matter of astonishment to me, that peace is not regarded as inviolable; and that war should ever take place among men; or at least, that after it was once experienced, it was not totally banished from the face of the earth.

The more seriously I consider this matter, the more I am convinced, that a natural disposition, or an acquired ability, to ruin and to murder our brethren, is in its nature, infamous: and that what the folly of mankind calls by the specious names of valour, and heroism, are totally unworthy of honor or esteem. The whole proceeds from a kind of illusion, which rulers of the world place before the eyes of their subjects, that they may make them the tools of their passions, but above all, of that creature of the imagination, their ambition: and to add to this misfortune, sensible

fible people are frequently caught in the snares of this sophism.

Now as by the common consent of mankind, war is allowd to be an evil, so it seems to me highly proper, to endeavour by all means to restrain this evil, that the human race may receive as little injury as possible from it. This were true humanity, and consequently the foundation of true honor. What sight, in fact, can be more horrid, than that of a country ravaged by war? where nothing is to be seen but fire and sword, terror, confusion, despair, and death. What sight, on the contrary, can be more pleasing, than that of a country which is the abode of peace? where all orders of men are usefully employd; and where every one reaps the fruit of his own labor; where reigns perpetual joy; where arts, sciences, and commerce flourish; and where the charms of conversation are heightend by serene and innocent pleasures.

Those conquerors, who in subservience to private inclination, divert the natural

course of war, by laying their bloody hands on the husbandman or the tradesman, on the citizen or the gentleman; the peaceful inhabitants of the land; seem to me, to have but very slender notions of heroism: and it would not be at all difficult to prove, that they little understand their true interest; for when they shall duly estimate the fruits of their victorys, they will find, that a well grounded reputation is far from being the least of them.

Of all the injurys that society suffers from war, the greatest is, when the rare and invaluable monuments of science, and the polite arts; the works of antiquity; become subject to the unbridled rage of the ruffian soldier: for this damage is irreparable: this is a loss to the whole race of mankind; and posterity can never forgive that general, who commands, or even suffers his army to be guilty of such savage vengeance. The senseless impetuosity, the habitual cruelty, even that thirst of revenge, so natural to war, cannot justify

tify such conduct. Men still destroy whatever can be useful to an enemy ; every thing that care and industry can provide : but those objects which contribute neither to the riches nor power of a state ; those sacred pledges which our forefathers of every age, have committed to our care, to be faithfully handed down to posterity ; to sacrifice these holy monuments to a beggarly animosity, is such a species of brutality, as every thinking man must behold with detestation.

Had the Goths and Vandals been any thing better than mere robbers, it would be injustice in us, to treat their names with that despication and abhorrence we constantly do : but in the course of their ravages they laid waste and destroyd, all those productions of finishd beauty, of Greece and Italy, in building, in statuary, in painting and sculpture ; and this it is, that has branded their memory with eternal infamy.

The late cardinal Polignac had, at a vast expence, formd a noble collection of statues, busts, bass reliefs, rich tables, and
other

other monuments of antiquity ; which had the good fortune to escape the blind fury of the Goths : and such of them as time or accident had mutilated, were repaired by the hands of Bernini and Puget. At the death of the cardinal, the king of Prussia became possesd of this invaluable cabinet. The family of Licomedes ; Achilles in the habit of a girl, under which disguise he passd among the kings daughters ; Fortunata lying at play with children ; a sleeping Mòrpheus, and a number of other statues of excellent beauty ; a matchless bust of Cæsar ; and one of Domitian : All these pieces were so many miracles of art, and afforded inexpressible pleasur to the connoisseur.

But alas ! they are no more ; for at the plundering of Charlottenburg, on the 10th of this month, a day fatal to the polite arts, and disgraceful to human nature, this noble cabinet was totally destroyd. I turn my mind from so horrid a scene ; my heart sickens at the thought, and I have only power to add,

Farewell, my dear Count.



L E T T E R L X I.

To my Sons Henry and Ferdinand.

My dear Children,

THE court air that I have breathd for twenty years together, has never so far debas'd my mind, as to make me forgetful of my friends and relations : on the contrary, I have held a regular correspondence with them, during all that period : but from the moment that a great king call'd me to his councils, I have religiously observ'd that confidence he was pleas'd to repose in me, and in my letters have never mention'd a word of what is call'd state affairs *; however, that my correspondence might not become dry and uninteresting, I have endeavour'd to enliven it, with accounts of those entertain-

* See the note at the beginning of Letter XII.

ments the king has given to his courtiers ; with descriptions of those buildings with which he has adorn'd his dominions ; and of other monuments of his greatness.

Some of these letters regard science, or the polite arts ; others are devoted to friendship or affection ; and others contain accounts of my journeys. In the course of twenty-two years, these letters have increas'd to a considerable number ; and that perfect vacancy which I now enjoy at Hamburg, has prompted me to revise them ; and to make from among them a collection, that may hereafter prove agreeable, either by informing you of the most remarkable occurrences of my life ; or by affording you some entertaining anecdotes of the most renown'd, the most learned and polite court, that Europe has for a long time seen.

I have no view, my dear sons, but to give you pleasur, by satisfying a curiosity that must be natural to you, and of which I cannot disapprove : and yet I know not whether the reading will not prove
tiresome

tiresome to you: the little historys that I have here related, entertaind me, and seemd worthy of observation while they passd before my eyes, and were intermixd with the thread of my life: but perhaps these, which to me were living facts, have lost their force and beauty in the description. I fear it, my dear children, and the more, as on revising these letters, I find that they have very few of the ornaments of elocution; that I have no where attempted to display a pompous and learned style, but have contented myself with communicating to my friends, a plain and just relation. If the matter thereof, does not entertain or instruct you, this collection has no borrowd ornaments to recommend it; and perhaps you will preserve it in your library, merely as a token of respect for a father who so tenderly loved you.

It is not my intention to publish this friendly correspondence; I make, however, no protestations; there are a thousand motives, a thousand temptations, sufficiently strong

strong to break a resolution of this sort. At all events, it will probably be the last work that I shall offer to the public: and I am so highly sensible of that indulgence with which it has received my former productions, that I take my leave of it, with a thankful heart. To the best of my belief, I have finished my literary labors. Works of a very different nature wait for me, and will, most probably, employ the remainder of my days.

Follow, my dear sons, the path that I have opened to you, and strive by a noble conduct, to deliver our name down fair to posterity. My wishes and my endeavours are, that you may devote yourselves to the service of our king: in whatever station he shall place you, apply assiduously to the duties of it; let that be your principal study.

In every part of your education inquire carefully after first principles. Be diligent in the pursuit of learning, but sparing in the use of it: it is lawful in this respect, to hide the inward by the outward man.

I con-

I conjure you, my dear children, to conceal a good part of your abilities and your acquirements, so long as you are in a subordinate station of life; you will lose nothing by such wary conduct. As your principal object is, to please your superiors, you are to conform to their sentiments. Unhappy shall you be, if by uncommon sagacity or learning, you discover that you know too much. The more ability you have, the more opposition you will find to your advancement; the more difficult it will be for you to obtain that station in life, in which your ability would be of real use to you. There is no imprudence, however, in appearing at all times, men of strict integrity; for even in the midst of a corrupt court, virtue will almost always, sooner or later, obtain its reward.

It is impossible for me to express all that tenderness which I feel for you; forget not a father who has given you from the cradle so many marks of the strongest affection; and revere the memory of an honorable mother, who, alas!
has

has just died in my arms, and whose last sigh conveyd to heaven a prayer for your prosperity. Let the Author of your existence be constantly before your eyes. You have no friend more faithful than I, or more ready to direct your steps, in your education, your travels, or your duty. When I am in the grave, my dear sons, may you still regard my memory; and if, as I hope, a monarch shall hereafter call you to his service, follow at all times, that precept of divine wisdom, which is above all instruction I can give you; "Fear God, honor the king."

Hamburg, Jan. 1,
1763.

END of the SECOND VOLUME.